

2015

Town of Hope 2015 Annual Report

Hope, Me.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs>

Repository Citation

Hope, Me., "Town of Hope 2015 Annual Report" (2015). *Maine Town Documents*. 7523.
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs/7523>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Town Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

A vibrant rainbow arches across a pale sky, its colors transitioning from red on the left to violet on the right. Below the rainbow, a grassy field stretches across the foreground. A large, bare tree with a thick, gnarled trunk and many thin, leafless branches stands prominently in the middle ground. The tree's branches are dark and intricate, contrasting with the lighter sky and field. In the distance, a line of trees and a few yellow flowers are visible on the horizon.

Town of Hope

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Town of Hope

Knox County

Maine



2015 Annual Report

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 Financial Reports

June 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Cover: Apple Tree on Church Street
Photo by Molly Cole



SARAH E. DOUBLEDAY
1988 - 2014

Our Town lost two exceptional citizens last September and this annual report is dedicated to their memory. Sarah Doubleday thrived in the beautiful natural environment that Hope provided. She was a scholar athlete from an early age, representing Hope Elementary School at the Festival of Children's Poetry in 1998 and at the State Geography Bee in 2002. She competed on the soccer and basketball teams and went on to play on the Camden Hills Regional High School soccer, swim, and lacrosse teams. As a senior at CHRHS she was voted female athlete of the year by her classmates. She had a remarkable facility with words and an uncanny ability to see right to the essence of people and situations, describing them perfectly and succinctly. Sarah enjoyed swimming in Alford Lake and Hobbs Pond, participated in the Hobbs Pond Swim several times, and was one of a group of brave friends and

neighbors who jump into Hobbs Pond each year on April 15th (if the ice is out). She worked at the Hope General Store, coached the CHRHS girls' lacrosse team, and looked forward to beginning her teaching career. Proud of growing up in Hope, she loved telling her classmates at the University of Vermont (BA in Classics and History, 2010) and Brown University (MAT, 2014) about the unique character of Hope and brought them home to visit often. Her winsome personality and impish grin endeared her to many. She loved and was much loved by family and friends and is greatly missed.

Jim Laurita earned a zoology degree from UMass Amherst in 1981, worked and performed in the circus for several years, and completed his doctorate of veterinary medicine at Cornell University in 1989. He moved to the Midcoast in 1990 and soon settled in Hope, where he and his wife Carrie raised their two sons, Henry and Louis. Jim's love and compassion for all animals are part of what made him so special. A local veterinarian for 24 years, he was a beloved doctor to many pets and a steadfast educator to their owners. Early on he became known for traveling to a dying pet's home at any hour to pass the final minutes there with the family. Jim was smart, caring, kind and honest, passionate about all living creatures and attentive to the people around him. He never shied away from caring for any pet, including iguanas, snakes, and frogs. Once at his home an injured seagull healed in the bathtub, and any number of dogs, cats, birds, fish, frogs and ferrets have been lucky to call the Laurita home theirs. His eager greeting, often accompanied by a bear hug, endeared him to family, friends, pet owners, and community residents. Jim realized a lifelong dream and put Hope on the map when he brought two retired circus elephants to their new barn on Hatchet Mountain Road for rehabilitation and to educate the public about this endangered species. Hope residents were instrumental in helping the permit process along and offered widespread community support to this unique project. Jim and Hope Elephants are sadly missed.



JAMES L. LAURITA, DVM
1958 - 2014

ADMINISTRATION

Dedication.....	2
Municipal Officers & Committees	4
Board of Selectmen	8
Town Administrator	9
Town Clerk.....	10
Registrar of Voters.....	11

TAXES AND FINANCE

Assessors' Agent Report	12
Budget Committee Report	14
Tax Collector's Report	15
Town Audit Information and Excerpts	18
Treasurer's Report	25
Hope Elementary School Budget.....	28
Budget Comparison	29

EDUCATION

Hope Elementary School Report	30
Five Town CSD Report	31

PUBLIC WORKS AND SOLID WASTE

Mid-Coast Solid Waste Corp. Report	32
Road Commissioner's Report.....	34

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Department Report	35
Emergency Management Agency	36
Animal Control Officer	37

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Code Enforcement Officer/Local	
Plumbing Inspector.....	38
Planning Board	39
Board of Appeals/Board of Assessment	
Review.....	40

TOWN COMMITTEES

Cemetery Committee	41
--------------------------	----

COMMUNITY

Alford Lake - Lermond Pond Assoc.....	42
Coastal Mountains Land Trust	43
George's River Land Trust	44
Hatchet Mountain Sno-Riders	45
Hobbs and Fish Ponds Association.....	46
Hope Historical Society	47
Hope Library	48

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION

State Senator Dave Miramant	49
Governor Paul LePage	50
U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree	51
U.S. Senator Susan Collins	52
U.S. Senator Angus King	53

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2014 Special Town Meeting.....	54
June 2014 Annual Town Meeting.....	60

TOWN MEETING WARRANTS

May 13, 2015 Special Town Meeting.....	65
June 2015 Annual Town Meeting.....	71

OTHER INFORMATION

Hope Profile.....	75
Telephone Numbers.....	76
Website.....	76
Town Office Hours.....	76



Hart's Mill

photo courtesy of Hope Historical Society

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**ADMINISTRATION****Selectmen, Assessors & Overseers of the Poor**

Brian Powers, Jr., Chair	term expires 2015
James Annis	term expires 2016
J. Christopher Pinchbeck	term expires 2016
David Bosken	term expires 2017
Wendy Pelletier, Vice-Chair	term expires 2017
Town Administrator, GA Administrator, Treasurer	Jonathan Duke
Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Deputy Treasurer, Election Warden	Rosanna Bowman
Registrar of Voters, Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Tax Collector, Bookkeeper....	Mary Tolles
Assessors' Agent.....	Vern Ziegler
Addressing Officer.....	Clarence Keller
Town Meeting Moderators	Thomas Ford, Richard Crabtree, Margaret Ludwig
Election Clerks (terms expire 2016)	Linda Anderson, Ann Bresnahan, Barbara Campbell, Richard Crabtree, Mary Jane Doubleday, Amy Gertner, Donna Griffith, Susan Heal, Timothy Higbee, Adrian Humphreys, Mary Ireland, Molly Larson, Kimberley Lowe, Barbara Ludwig, Margaret Ludwig, Margaret Morse, Jessica Snyder, Stephanie Southworth, Brittany Spear

FINANCE**Budget Committee:**

Mark Dierckes.....	term expires 2015
Jill Lang, Secretary	term expires 2015
Brittany Payson.....	term expires 2015
John Jensen, Vice-Chair.....	term expires 2016
William Pearse, Jr., Chair	term expires 2016
Edward Steele	term expires 2016
Joseph Berry.....	term expires 2017
Jean Ettlinger	term expires 2017
William Jones.....	term expires 2017
Knox County Budget Committee Member (Hope Representative):	
William Jones.....	term expires 2016

EDUCATION

Superintendent – School Union 69 K-8).....Nancy Weed

School Committee:

Christine Alberi, Chair.....	term expires 2015
Kathryn Ryan	term expires 2015
Michael Pierce	term expires 2016
Brian Powers, Sr.	term expires 2016
Alina Smith	term expires 2017
Five Town Community School District Committee Member (Hope Representative):	
Kathryn Bracher.....	term expires 2015

PUBLIC WORKS

Road Commissioner:

John Monroeterm expires 2017

Representatives to Mid-Coast Solid Waste Board of Directors

James Annis

Thomas Ford

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Chief, Fire Warden, Emergency Management Director..... Clarence Keller

Volunteer Firefighters:

Leonard Ames

Isaiah Backiel

Michael Eaton, Deputy Chief

Dan Ford

Fred Holbrook, Safety Officer

William Jackson

Mary Holmes

Alex Ludwig, Asst. Chief

Brandon Melanson

Scott Nelson

Brian Payson

David Peabody

Thomas Peabody

Chris Pearse

Casey Rouleau

Ginny Ryan

Ray Sisk

Dana Winchenbach

Ronnie Wright

Hope Volunteer Fire Department Life Members:

Wayne Berry

Sydney Mank

Hope Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Members:

Wendy Eaton

Dottie Holbrook

Nancy Keller

Peggy Ludwig

Brittany Payson

Ruth Winchenbach

Dottie Wright

Health Officer vacant

Animal Control Officer.....Heidi Blood

Animal Control Officer, Alternate.....Deb Paul

Inland HarbormasterJustin Twitchell

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing InspectorJonathan Duke

Planning Board:

Jessica Snyderterm expires 2015
Juanita Huntterm expires 2016
Douglas Kellough, Chairterm expires 2016
Richard Brodis, Sr.....term expires 2017
James Owenterm expires 2017
John Fallows, Vice-Chair.....term expires 2018
Robert Hall, Jr.....term expires 2019

Board of Appeals/Board of Assessment Review:

Charles Crockett.....term expires 2015
Thomas Ford, Chairterm expires 2016
Steven Bowman, Vice-Chairterm expires 2017
Ronald Wright.....term expires 2017
Mary Ireland, Secretaryterm expires 2019

COMMUNITY

Cemetery Committee:

Jean Ettlinger, Secretaryterm expires 2015
Bernard Holmesterm expires 2015
Joseph Berry.....term expires 2016
Janice Campbell, Chair and Sextonterm expires 2016
Marie Powersterm expires 2017

Recreation Committee:

Richard Bresnahanterm expires 2015
Amy Rootterm expires 2015
Andrew Stewartterm expires 2015

Hope Historical Society Officers:

Donovan Bowley, President Gwen Brodis, Treasurer
Jane Mitchell, Vice President Linda Hillgrove, Secretary

Hope Volunteer Library Board of Directors:

Beth Guiseley, Library Director Nancy Connon, Chair
Jean Ettlinger, Treasurer Sydney Hall, Secretary
Judith Jones Debbie Stockwell
Theresa Withee

ELECTED OFFICIALS**State Representative – House District #95....Gary E. Sukeforth****State House Contact Information:**

2 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333-0002
 207-287-1400
 1-800-423-2900 (message phone)

Gary.Sukeforth@legislature.maine.gov

www.maine.gov/legis/house/hsebios/sukege.htm

Home Contact Information:

P.O. Box 840
 Union, ME 04862
 207-975-3020 (cell)
 207-785-6801 (fax)

State Senator – State District #12David Miramant**State House Contact Information:**

3 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333-0003
 207-287-1515
 800-423-6900 (messages)
 207-287-1583 (TTY)

www.legislature.maine.gov/senate

Home Contact Information:

207-236-4845
 davemiramant@gmail.com

U.S. Senator Susan Collins

413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510-1904
 202-224-2523 (Wash. D.C. office)
 207-622-8414 (Augusta, ME office)
www.collins.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Angus King

359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510-1905
 202-224-5344 (Wash. D.C. office)
 207-622-8292 (Augusta, ME office)
www.king.senate.gov

U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree

2162 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 202-225-6116
 Augusta, Maine office – 207-774-5019
www.pingree.house.gov/contact

Want to see a sample ballot before an election? They are posted at least seven days before each election at the Town Office, Hope Elementary School, Hope General Store, Pushaw's Trading Post, and at www.hopemaine.org.



CHAIR

Brian Powers, Jr.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

See photo on page 74

We want to express our thanks and appreciation to the citizens of Hope for their continued support in all our endeavors. We always try to keep residents' best interests in the forefront of our decision-making.

This year part of our focus has been creating a more transparent budget with the help of the budget committee. Our intent is to provide the voter a clearer understanding of where, how, and why their hard-earned money is being spent. The budget process has been inconsistent for several years and there have been many opinions as to which route best serves the community. We feel confident about the direction both boards have taken to streamline and strengthen this process. However, we do anticipate minor improvements in the future, as we continue to build upon our experiences.

Several years ago, the town created a fund called "The Hope Chest". These donations have been building up through the years because of generous donations from several sources. The spirit of the program has been to provide financial assistance to those truly in need. For the first time this year, we have given funds from "The Hope Chest" to multiple families during difficult circumstances in their lives. We welcome suggestions from anyone who knows of a person or family that may need help. Please contact Jon Duke at the Town Office or Danielle Fagonde at Hope Elementary School. This program is confidential in nature.

Another change we have made this year is in our town Animal Control Officer position. Instead of contracting through the Town of Union for these services, we have hired Heidi Blood as our own independent ACO. This was done for two reasons - to save the town money (roughly \$2500/year), and to give the town more involvement and control over the policies of this service.

Since our Town Office was renovated several years ago, we have tried to create an appropriate energy code policy for all our municipal buildings that is both responsible and workable for all parties. We completed the final stage of this process by insulating the South Hope Fire Station this winter and putting together a set of heating guidelines for each building, using programmable thermostats and appropriate temperature settings. We anticipate substantial savings to the taxpayer while still meeting the needs of the public.

At long last, the former Union Chemical site will now be returned to the Town of Hope should voters approve this at our upcoming Annual Town Meeting. This will hopefully conclude an arduous 30-year-long dispute over the future of this property. There have been many town officials and citizens through the years who have spent countless hours working to bring closure to this matter. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their tireless efforts that have helped bring us all to this point. Having this property back on the tax map would bring with it new possibilities for the Route 17 corridor.

Lastly, we would like to express our appreciation to our town employees, volunteers, and committee members for their commitment to the Town of Hope. Small towns like ours depend on great employees and devoted volunteers. Thank you. We encourage anyone with an interest in serving the town in any capacity to come forward and join our motley crew!!

See you all at Town Meeting.....!

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Jonathan Duke



TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Town of Hope has seen a challenging year since our last town report twelve months ago. A beautiful summer led us into a very difficult fall where we lost a number of residents of great distinction. This year, the Town of Hope is honoring a pair of those we lost who gave back to this community, but there were others of great distinction who passed in 2014 and the first half of 2015. Hope has changed greatly over the past 30 years and though it has now become nearly impossible to know everyone in town, the closeness of this community remains as strong as ever. Whether it is offering a solemn word of condolence at the passing of a family member or attending a fundraiser to help a family in need, the people of the Town of Hope have come to the aid of its residents when they need it most. The trying times Hope endured will only serve to make this community stronger in the end, but the loss of many fine Hope residents will not be forgotten.

Following a difficult fall, this winter came early with a remarkable winter storm in early November that left many in the region without power for days and nearly threatened the ability to conduct the November election. Thankfully, Central Maine Power was able to restore electrical service to the Town Office in sufficient time to prepare for Election Day, but many Hope residents remained out of power for several more days. The Hope Fire Department staffed a warming shelter during this major storm (and others during a challenging winter season) and the use of the Town of Hope's Facebook and Twitter accounts allowed citizens to become aware of important information and alerts. If you haven't, please take the time to follow each of these accounts so that you can be up to speed if another major disaster event takes place.

As snow was blanketing Hope from January to April, the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee conducted their reviews of the municipal budget. While many costs we all deal with in everyday life increase, taxpayers in Hope have seen their cost to maintain town services *decrease* once again. Using the budget that will go before the voters at the June 15th Annual Town Meeting, the cost to pay for Town services (\$1.88 per \$1000 of assessed value) would be lower now than it has been at any time since my arrival as your Town Administrator in 2006. Obviously the Selectmen and Budget Committee deserve a great deal of credit in this regard, but so too do the individuals who work on your behalf for the Town of Hope. Mary Tolles, Rosie Bowman, Clarence Keller and John Monroe do their best to stay within the budget set at Town Meeting and provide the best service possible. Working as a public employee has many challenges, and the Town of Hope should be quite thankful it has the individuals it has working its behalf to continue making Hope a great place to live.

I want to thank all of you for your guidance, questions, and comments over the past year, and I look forward to even more to come. Please feel free to reach me at any time via phone, email, or in person.

TOWN CLERK
Rosanna Bowman

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014



Vital Statistics

Number of births recorded	15
Number of marriages recorded	6
Number of deaths recorded	11

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>	<u>Age</u>
Frederick Simmons	July 20, 2013	Hope	81
Ann Gould	September 23, 2013	Owl's Head	80
Donald Pushaw	November 28, 2013	Hope	90
Cameron Dow	December 1, 2013	Portland	20
Everett Crabtree	January 24, 2014	Augusta	87
Michael Bracher	March 13, 2014	Rockport	53
Ruth Payson	April 8, 2014	Hope	92
Paul Lewis	April 29, 2014	Hope	77
Leonard Dermott	May 20, 2014	Rockport	70
Forest Priestley	June 12, 2014	Hope	18
Mary Iorio	June 16, 2014	Belfast	70

Town Fees Collected	FY 2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Auto Excise Tax	\$224,944	\$234,523	\$239,622	\$276,739
Boat Excise Tax	3,319	4,323	4,160	3,033
Building Permits	9,323	17,037	6,019	7,553
Plumbing Permits	1,293	2,490	2,908	2,385
Motor Vehicle Agent Fees	4,050	4,059	5,118	5,542
Recreational Vehicle Agent Fees	354	332	310	289
Photocopies	388	162	85	88
Copies of Vital Records	1,147	661	900	784
Marriage Licenses	288	252	252	292
Planning Board	500	0	2,854	700
Sale of Maps and Publications	242	145	211	248
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Agent Fees	364	369	299	275
Dog Licenses	2,618	1,506	1,766	2,282
Dog Ordinance Fines	500	550	305	115
Returned Check Charges	112	95	0	25
Sale of Cemetery Lots	0	800	800	800
Total	\$249,442	\$267,304	\$265,609	\$301,150

State Fees Collected and Sent to State

Bureau of Motor Vehicle	\$55,251	\$55,830	\$89,736	\$93,588
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	18,307	16,959	15,551	16,373
Dog Licenses	1,358	1,196	1,128	1,101
Plumbing Permits	635	990	1,118	946
Vital Records	217	128	164	136
Total	\$75,768	\$75,103	\$107,697	\$112,144

Mid-Coast Solid Waste Fees

Pay-as-you-Throw Bags	\$3,086	\$2,557	\$3,302	\$2,962
-----------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
Mary Tolles

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS



Hope residents who are eligible to vote may register at the Town Office during regular business hours or at the polls on Election Day. Proof of residency is required at the time of registration. If this is your first time registering to vote in Maine, you must also bring proof of identification, such as a driver's license or other photo ID. You may register to vote when you register your automobile at a branch office of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. You may register by mail with a card supplied by the Secretary of State, but you must enclose a copy of your driver's license. Seventeen-year-olds may register to vote if they will be eighteen before the next Election Day. Only registered voters may vote at Town Meetings and at the polls.

To vote in a primary election or participate in a caucus, you must be enrolled in a political party. If you are unenrolled, you may enroll in a party at any time, including Election Day. However, if you are changing parties, you must do so at least 15 days before that party's caucus or primary. You may change or withdraw party enrollment only after three months of enrollment in one of the three recognized political parties in Maine – Democratic, Republican, or Green Independent. Please note that although some unenrolled candidates and voters choose to designate themselves as "Independent," there is no Independent Party in Maine.

In Maine, a registered voter may vote by absentee ballot for any reason. Absentee ballots are available 30 days before an election, and voters can request a ballot in person at the Town Office, by mail, by phone, or on the internet from the Secretary of State's website. There is a link to that site at www.hopemaine.org. Immediate family members may request a ballot on behalf of a family member in person or by mail.

1,160	Registered voters as of June 30, 2013
34	Names added
(34)	Names removed – moved
(8)	Names removed – deceased
<u>1,152</u>	Registered voters as of June 30, 2014

Registered Voters as of June 30, 2014

376	Republican
331	Democratic
54	Green Independent
<u>391</u>	Unenrolled
<u>1,152</u>	Total Registered Voters

Assessors' Agent
C. Vernon Ziegler, CMA



ASSESSORS' AGENT REPORT

Each year the Maine Legislature's Taxation Committee has a recurring discussion, driven by the state budget, which affects every property taxpayer. This year is no exception with bills introduced to eliminate Municipal Revenue Sharing, eliminate the Homestead Exemption for taxpayers under the age of 65 and amend the Tree Growth law to insure compliance with the program.

The proposed state budget contains a provision to eliminate municipal revenue sharing in 2017. Revenue sharing helps municipalities subsidize the cost of unfunded state mandates and the loss of that funding, in most cases, results in an increase in the local property tax. The Taxation Committee is recommending that the revenue sharing program be funded at forty percent (40%) of the amount required by state law for both 2016 and 2017. Although this falls short by sixty percent (60%), the recommendation will prevent complete loss of this program.

Another provision of the proposed budget would change eligibility for the Homestead Exemption to persons at least 65 years of age and increase the exempt value to \$20,000. The Taxation Committee is recommending that the Homestead Exemption be retained as it currently exists – a \$10,000 value exemption for all Homesteads. Additional requirements for this exemption are listed below.

There is an important change to the Veteran Exemption eligibility. The Taxation Committee voted to eliminate the requirement that a veteran of the Vietnam War must have served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days, unless the veteran died in service or was discharged for a service-connected disability after having served at least partly between February 27, 1961 and May 8, 1975. This does not mean the bill has become law but rather allows the bill to move forward to a vote of the full Legislature. If you are a veteran of the Vietnam War who would otherwise qualify for the exemption, but has not because of the 180 days of service requirement, passage of this bill would allow you to apply for the Veteran Exemption.

Currently available property tax relief programs include the Maine Homestead Exemption which allows for a reduction in the assessed value for all qualifying property. The exemption in Hope is currently \$10,000. To qualify, you must be a legal resident of the State of Maine, have owned a residential property in Maine for at least the past twelve months and the homestead must be your permanent place of residence. You can only claim the exemption for one property and cannot claim the exemption in any other state. When a property is sold, the exemption is removed and the new homeowner must apply for the exemption. Applications for this program are available at the Town Office and must be filed by April 1 each year. Once your application has been approved, it is automatically renewed each year that you qualify for the exemption.

Forms are also available at the Town Office for Veteran Exemptions for all veterans, widows, widowers, minor children or widowed parents of veterans who have served in a federally recognized war period and have reached the age of 62.

All participants with parcels enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Program are required to certify to a current forest management and harvest plan and file an application and Forest Type Map with the local assessor every ten years. If a piece of property enrolled in the Program was transferred, the new owner has one year from the date of transfer to comply with the provisions of the law. Landowners who fail to meet the requirements of the law are disqualified from classification, and must be withdrawn from the program and the required penalty assessed by the Town. Proposed amendments to this law are designed to strengthen the commercial harvesting intent of the law, provide for continuation of random compliance audits and reinforce the penalties for failure to follow the program's requirements.

The Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund "Circuitbreaker" Program was repealed and replaced by an income tax credit called the Property Tax Fairness Credit that is claimed on the Maine Individual Income Tax Form. This program is administered by the Income/Estate Tax Division of Maine Revenue Services. Assistance in applying for this credit is available by calling 207-626-8475 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Assessors' Agent's schedule is available at the Town Office by the first of each month. If you would like to meet with me, please call the office to schedule an appointment.

I am thankful to your dedicated Town Office Staff for their assistance and to the Assessors for their support. Thank you the opportunity to serve as your Assessors' Agent.

March 2015
Vernon Ziegler CMA
Assessors' Agent



View of Camden Hills from Hope

photo by Scott Harty

CHAIR

William Pearse, Jr.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Rear row from left: Ted Steele, Mark Dierckes, Bill Jones, Joe Berry
Front row from left: John Jensen, Bill Pearse, Jill Lang, Jean Ettlinger (Brittany Payson not shown)

Each year your Budget Committee meets to review the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. While the Budget Committee can only make recommendations to both you the voters and town officials, our main objective is to make sure that the funds requested are used in a manner so as to benefit you the most.

We also look at what the current mill rate might be, depending upon how you, the voters, vote on the Town Warrant Articles, as well as how our actions may affect future budgets and mill rates. Each year the Budget Committee looks at the undesignated fund balance (surplus) that the Town has and tries to determine what amount, if any, should be used to help reduce the proposed tax burden on the Town.

Each year discussion centers on how best to use these funds. The surplus is made up of funds that were budgeted in past years that were not spent. The key here is to try to use these funds appropriately and intelligently. While some argue that the Town should not have any surplus funds remaining and that they should be used to reduce the mill rate dramatically, others argue that these funds should be used over a period years to try keep the mill rate constant or at least reduce the amount of increase in the mill rate for that year, leaving some to be used in future years.

This year, like last year, there will be a recommendation of an amount to be used to reduce the mill rate. It is a recommendation only; it is up to you, the voters, to determine how best to use these funds. This decision will be made at the Town Meeting in June and thus we hope to see you there to voice your opinion.

Sincerely yours,
Bill Pearse, Jr, Chair

TAX COLLECTOR

Rosanna Bowman



TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Personal Property Taxes Unpaid as of June 30, 2014

B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2003	\$1,793
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2004	2,832
Marlin Leasing	2005	117
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2005	2,857
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2006	3,244
Michael Eaton	2007	14
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2007	1,389
Michael Eaton	2008	14
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2008	1,414
Michael Eaton	2009	14
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2009	1,397
Michael Eaton	2010	13
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2010	1,316
John Power	2010	42
Michael Eaton	2011	13
William Huntington	2011	420
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2011	1,244
John Power	2011	39
Michael Eaton	2012	12
William Huntington	2012	806
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2012	1,192
John Power	2012	38
Michael Eaton	2013	11
William Huntington	2013	760
B. Melanson & L. Robinson	2013	1,124
John Power	2013	36
William Huntington	2014	711
Michael Eaton	2014	11
*Donald Pendleton	2014	146
*E. Kevin Jones	2014	7
Robert Gardner	2014	39
*Brian O'Neil	2014	194
Pushaw's LLC	2014	99
Wayne & Lorraine Smith	2014	35

2013 Tax Liens Unpaid as of June 30, 2014

*Heirs of Irving & Dolores Bassett	\$949
*Timothy & Diane Baum	156
*Joel Blemaster	5,635
*Geoffrey Bosser	1,905
*Robert & Gayle Carpentier	87
*Luke Church, Jr.	2,194
*Chris Feener	838
*Chris Feener	642
*Daniel Gilbert	1,136
*Bruce Jarry	449
*Donna & James Jillson	1,061
*Steven Jones	2,225
*Heirs of Carolie Larnier	3,201
*Heirs of Carolie Larnier	1,346
*Heirs of Carolie Larnier	74
*Heirs of Carolie Larnier	1,382
*Bonny Longley	1,432
*Keith & Mary Ludwig	1,552
*B. Melanson & L. Robinson	287
*B. Melanson & L. Robinson	282
*Bruce Melanson	2,583
*Robert & Angela Monroe	1,538
*William Neils	911
*Tammy O'Brian	99
*Paul Payson	5,370
*Paul Payson	6,473
*Peter & Donna Perry	1,571
*John & Rachel Power	2,215
*L. Robinson & B. Melanson	1,112
*Warren & Sheryl Seelig	45
*Karl & Jennifer Smith	1,242
*Kevin Stockbridge	2,134
*Paul & Patricia Tetreault	1,315
*Wayne & Lynn Thomas	2,104
*Sam & Stacy Whitley	3,168
*Scott & Sheryl Young	1,437

2014 Abatements Granted

Ronald Smith	\$135
Donald E. Westover, Jr.	30
Douglas & Pauline Johnstone	26
Rebecca Jones	205
Doug & Erin Merrill	832
Thomas & Joanne Bresnahan	348

2014 Farmland Withdrawal Penalty

Virginia Crabtree (paid)	\$2,749
--------------------------	---------

*Paid after June 30, 2014

2014 Real Estate Taxes Unpaid as of June 30, 2014

*Glen & Robin Adolphsen	\$1,582	Heirs of Carolie Larner	\$31
*Glen & Robin Adolphsen	180	*Joshua Leavitt	144
*David & Robin Agnor	2,211	Bonny Longley	1,301
*Gary Baker	338	*Nancy & Jeffrey Lord, Trustees	2,794
J. C. & Louise Bakley	1,223	*Nancy Lord, Trustee	343
Heirs of Irving & Delores Bassett	850	*Stefan Low	747
*Timothy & Diane Baum	3,808	Alan Lowberg	755
Joel Blemaster	5,229	*Wayne & Molly Luce	1,473
Geoffrey Bosser	1,724	Keith & Mary Ludwig	1,420
Karen Brace & Christopher Hardy	3,160	*Joseph & Sharon Machado	928
*William & June Brown	55	*Sandra Mansfield	18
*Joshua Carle	1,616	*Dale Martin	660
*Stuart Carle	1,176	*Robin & Terry Martz	1,634
*Nancy Carlson et al.	21	B. Melanson & L. Robinson	231
*Robert & Gayle Carpentier	516	B. Melanson & L. Robinson	225
Robert & Gayle Carpentier	70	*Bruce Melanson	1,150
*Jeffrey & Deirdre Caswell	103	Bruce Melanson	2,379
Luke Church, Jr.	2,010	*Fred & Gretchen Merrifield	410
*Naomi Cohen	1,841	*Michael & Pam Miller	34
*Dana & Dawn Cote	4,028	*Elliot & Mary Jane Mitchell	2,310
*Leeanne Cousins	54	*Monroe Construction, Inc.	2,122
*Todd & Shelley Crabtree	404	*Amy Monroe	3,788
*Edmund Dewing III	2,508	*Derick Monroe	514
*Daniel Domench	98	*John Monroe	1,308
*Aurolyn Downing, Trustee	1,034	Robert & Angela Monroe	1,401
*Amanda Fallon	984	*Vincent & Rebecca Murray	739
*Chris Feener	562	William Neils	809
*Chris Feener	746	*Tammy O'Brian	89
*Lenda Mae Fish, LE	1,710	*James & Cynthia Ostrowski	3,591
*Robert Gardner & Tina Parlin	1,601	*Gordon & Jennifer Paine	15
*Bernard Garrigan & John Wight	342	Paul Payson	6,016
Daniel Gilbert	1,019	Paul Payson	4,982
*Samuel & Allison Glover	2,216	*Richard Payson	537
Roger Graham	136	*Eric Pearse	2,138
*A. Kathleen Hastings	1,022	*Donald & Lisa Pendleton	3,985
*A. Kathleen Hastings	4,048	Peter & Donna Perry	2,881
*Michael Hoffmann	1,972	Peter & Donna Perry and M. Upton	1,432
*Michael & Mary Ann Hoffmann	1,120	*Susan Pushaw et al.	2,921
Bruce Jarry	376	*Susan Pushaw	702
Donna & James Jillson	958	*Susan Pushaw	520
*Martha Johnston	508	Pushaw's LLC	6,140
*Steven Jones	2,038	Pushaw's LLC	300
*Jeanette Kassell/Robert Schroff	525	*Richardson Property Management	180
*Douglas Kelly, Jr., Trustee	1,801	L. Robinson & B. Melanson	996
*Douglas Kelly, Jr., Trustee	2,596	*Jodi Saastamoinen	1,366
*Bruce, Kenneth, & Paul Kleene	2,652	Heirs of Mark Sajban	447
*Bruce, Kenneth, & Paul Kleene	197	Warren & Sheryl Seelig	2,031
*Bruce, Kenneth, & Paul Kleene	165	*Eric & Jennifer Simon	478
*Bruce, Kenneth, & Paul Kleene	125	*Kenneth & Sally Siriani	671
*Sharon Kolb	17	Karl & Jennifer Smith	2,369
Mark Kotkiewicz, LE	1,111	*Susan & David Smith	1,277
Heirs of Carolie Larner	2,957	*Sarah Spear	659
Heirs of Carolie Larner	1,221	Jane Spurrier	2,702
Heirs of Carolie Larner	1,255	*Walter Stinson	839

2014 Real Estate Taxes Unpaid as of June 30, 2014 (continued)

Kevin Stockbridge	\$1,954	*David Patrick Wellman	\$979
*Carl Stoddard	678	Sam & Stacy Whitley	2,921
Paul & Patricia Tetreault	1,192	John Winsper	2,415
Wayne & Lynn Thomas	1,927	*Rachel Woodruff	4,388
Greg & Katrina Thompson	448	*Robert C. Wright, Jr.	2,541
Greg & Katrina Thompson	1,774	Michael B. Young	592
*Yves Vitasse	3,008	Scott & Sheryl Young	1,979

*Paid after June 30, 2014

Information about Maine's Homestead Exemption

Do you own your home? If so, you may be eligible for the state's homestead exemption. This program provides for a \$10,000 reduction in the assessed value of the property. At the 2014-2015 mil rate of 13.50, this means you would save \$135 on your property tax bill. To apply for this exemption, fill out a very simple application and submit it to the Town's Assessors' Agent. You do not have to re-apply every year. You can check to see if you are already getting this exemption by looking at the box in the upper right corner of your tax bill.

TOWN OF HOPE
INCORPORATED 1804
MAINE

Home | About Hope | Department

Town Office
Selectmen
Committees
Town Services
Finance
How Do I...?
Tax Maps, Assessing & Prop. Taxes
Ordinances
General Assistance
Library
Historical Society
Weather in Hope
Town Reports
Businesses in Hope
Arts and Recreation

TOWN OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday 7:30am - 4:30pm
Wednesday 7:30am - 4:30pm
Thursday 2:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday 7:30am - 4:30pm

Property Tax Relief Programs
The Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Reduction "Audit Breaker" Program has been repealed for claims beginning on or after August 1, 2013. The Audit Breaker Program has been replaced by a refundable [Property Tax Business Credit](#) that can be claimed on the Maine Individual Income Tax Form. For more information, go to [http://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxrel/tnr.htm](#)

Assessors' Agent
Tax Maps
This program provides property tax relief for Maine residents who have owned a property for the twelve months immediately preceding April 1st. To apply for this exemption, fill out an [application](#) and submit it to the Town's [Assessors' Agent](#).

Veteran Exemption - A veteran who is a Maine resident and who served active duty during a recognized war period and who is 62 years or older, or who is receiving 100% disability as a veteran, or who became 100% disabled while serving, is eligible for property tax relief as described in [Bulletin No. 7 \(Veteran Exemptions\)](#). To apply for this exemption, fill out an [application](#) and submit it to the Town's [Assessors' Agent](#).

Veteran's Widow/Widower Exemption - A tax exemption is available to the widow or widower of a veteran who meets certain requirements as described in [Bulletin No. 7 \(Veteran Exemptions\)](#). To apply for this exemption, fill out an [application](#) and submit it to the Town's [Assessors' Agent](#).

Paraplegic Veteran - A veteran who received a federal grant for a specially adapted housing unit may be eligible for property tax relief as described in [Bulletin No. 7 \(Veteran Exemptions\)](#). To apply for this exemption, fill out an [application](#) and submit it to the Town's [Assessors' Agent](#).

Blind Exemption - An individual who is determined to be legally blind is eligible for property tax relief. To apply for this exemption, fill out an [application](#) and submit it to the Town's [Assessors' Agent](#).

Farmland - Property owners who have land in agricultural production who meet certain other requirements may qualify for tax relief under the State of Maine's Farmland Program as described in [Bulletin No. 18 \(Farm and Open Space Tax Law\)](#). To apply for this program, fill out an [application](#) and submit it to the Town's [Assessors' Agent](#).

You can get a Homestead Exemption application at the Town Office or at www.hopemaine.org. Click on Property Taxes, and then on Property Tax Relief programs.

WILLIAM H. BREWER*Certified Public Accountant*

858 Washington Street

P.O. Box 306

Bath, Maine 04530

(207) 443-9759

(207) 563-5495

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Selectmen
Town of Hope
441 Camden Road
Hope, Maine 04847

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Hope, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Hope as of June 30, 2014 and 2013, and the respective changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

October 30, 2014

William H. Brewer

An independent audit of the Town's financial statements was performed for the year ended June 30, 2014, by the accounting firm of William H. Brewer, 858 Washington Street, Bath, ME 04530. The complete audit report, including the opinion thereon, is available for inspection at the Town Office during normal business hours. These two pages contain the audit opinion. The following five pages have been excerpted from that report.



A complete copy of the audit can also be found under Finance at www.hopemaine.org.

The screenshot shows the Town of Hope website with a green sidebar menu and a main content area. The sidebar menu includes links to Town Office, Selectmen, Committees, Town Services, Finance, How Do I...?, Tax Maps, Assessing & Prop. Taxes, Ordinances, General Assistance, Library, Historical Society, and Weather in Hope. The main content area features the Town of Hope seal and a list of audit reports for fiscal years 2014, 2013, 2012, and 2011.

Exhibit A

TOWN OF HOPE
STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2014 AND 2013

	GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	2014 TOTAL	2013 TOTAL
ASSETS				
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Cash (Note B)	\$ 969,166	\$ -	\$ 969,166	\$ 714,139
Accounts Receivable (Note C)	51,544	2,433	53,977	35,548
Taxes Receivable	178,947		178,947	200,029
Tax Liens	72,523		72,523	63,129
Inventory		1,992	1,992	2,290
Due From Other Funds		4,167	4,167	1,048
Prepaid Expenses	6,531		6,531	28,582
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,278,711	\$ 8,592	\$ 1,287,303	\$ 1,044,765
PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT:				
Net Property, Plant, and Equipment (Note J)	4,548,781		4,548,781	4,738,455
Total Assets	<u>\$ 5,827,492</u>	<u>\$ 8,592</u>	<u>\$ 5,836,084</u>	<u>\$ 5,783,220</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION				
CURRENT LIABILITIES:				
Notes and Bonds Payable (Note D)	\$ 70,165	\$ -	\$ 70,165	\$ 70,164
Accounts Payable - Trade	20,124		20,124	48,531
Accrued Wages	100,906		100,906	88,795
Other Accrued Expenses	37,573		37,573	32,175
Due To Other Funds	4,166		4,166	1,048
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 232,934	\$ -	\$ 232,934	\$ 240,713
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES:				
Notes and Bonds Payable -				
Net of Current Portion (Note D)	501,646		501,646	571,811
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 734,580</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 734,580</u>	<u>\$ 812,524</u>
NET POSITION:				
Net Invested in Capital Assets	\$ 3,958,534	\$ -	\$ 3,958,534	\$ 4,076,264
Restricted for:				
Nonexpendable Perpetual Care	19,385		19,385	19,145
Capital Projects	80,721		80,721	53,659
Other Purposes	224,366		224,366	80,637
Unrestricted	809,906	8,592	818,498	740,991
Total Net Position	\$ 5,092,912	\$ 8,592	\$ 5,101,504	\$ 4,970,696
Total Liabilities and Net Position	<u>\$ 5,827,492</u>	<u>\$ 8,592</u>	<u>\$ 5,836,084</u>	<u>\$ 5,783,220</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

WILLIAM H. BREWER • CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT • 858 WASHINGTON STREET • BATH, MAINE 04530

Exhibit B

TOWN OF HOPE
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2014 AND 2013

FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS	EXPENSES	PROGRAM REVENUES				NET (EXPENSE) REVENUE AND CHANGE IN NET POSITION			
		CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS		GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES	2014 TOTAL	2013 TOTAL
Primary Government:									
Governmental Activities:									
General Government	\$ 436,645	\$ 22,509	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (414,136)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (414,136)	\$ (387,280)
Public Safety	88,924		1,259		(87,165)			(87,165)	(126,173)
Public Works	274,158		37,096		(237,062)			(237,062)	(385,270)
Sanitation	49,876				(49,876)			(49,876)	(50,607)
Culture and Recreation	5,055				(5,055)			(5,055)	(1,272)
Education	2,560,169		585,094		(1,975,075)			(1,975,075)	(1,999,522)
Cemeteries	11,319	800			(10,519)			(10,519)	(2,723)
Interest	22,294				(22,294)			(22,294)	(25,560)
Intergovernmental on Behalf Payments	126,009		126,009						
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 3,574,449	\$ 23,309	\$ 749,458	\$ 500	\$ (2,801,182)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,801,182)	\$ (2,978,407)
Business-Type Activities:									
School Lunch Program	51,448	25,582	28,842		2,976	2,976		2,976	(2,313)
Total Primary Government	\$ 3,625,897	\$ 48,891	\$ 778,300	\$ 500	\$ (2,801,182)	\$ 2,976	\$ 2,976	\$ (2,798,206)	\$ (2,980,720)
General Revenues:									
Taxes:									
Property Taxes					\$ 2,517,207	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,517,207	\$ 2,474,162
Excise Taxes					279,772			279,772	243,781
Interest and Costs on Taxes					21,996			21,996	22,769
Intergovernmental:									
State Revenue Sharing					61,474			61,474	90,010
Homestead Exemption					29,670			29,670	29,541
Tree Growth Reimbursement					8,093			8,093	8,995
Veterans' Exemption					1,005			1,005	1,039
General Assistance Reimbursement					355			355	2,818
Tax Penalties Authorized by Statute					2,749			2,749	11,523
Restricted Interest					1,772			1,772	1,571
Unrestricted Interest					2,288			2,288	1,890
Gain on Sale of Assets									150
Miscellaneous					2,633			2,633	1,292
Total General Revenues					\$ 2,929,014	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,929,014	\$ 2,889,541
Change in Net Position					\$ 121,832	\$ 2,976	\$ 2,976	\$ 130,808	\$ (91,179)
Net Position, July 1					4,965,080	5,616	5,616	4,970,696	5,061,875
Net Position, June 30					\$ 5,092,912	\$ 8,592	\$ 8,592	\$ 5,101,504	\$ 4,970,696

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

Exhibit E

TOWN OF HOPE
BALANCE SHEETS - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2014 AND 2013

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES		SPECIAL REVENUE			CEMETERY MAINTENANCE	PERMANENT CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE	TOTAL GOVERNMENT 2014	TOTAL GOVERNMENT 2013
	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS	FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS	OTHER GRANTS					
ASSETS:									
Cash	\$ 888,539	\$ 52,057	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,425	\$ 19,145	\$ 969,166	\$ 714,139
Receivables:									
Taxes	178,947							178,947	189,480
Liens	53,173							53,173	56,100
Governmental Agencies	47,969		1,166					49,135	30,813
Other	2,409							2,409	2,000
Due From Other Funds		28,664	3,532	2,210		560	240	35,206	21,912
Prepaid Expenses									
Total Assets	\$ 1,177,568	\$ 80,721	\$ 4,698	\$ 2,210	\$ -	\$ 9,985	\$ 19,385	\$ 1,294,567	\$ 1,043,026
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE:									
Liabilities:									
Accounts Payable	\$ 20,124	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,124	\$ 48,074
Accrued Payroll	100,906							100,906	88,795
Other Accrued Expenses	19,137							19,137	11,959
Due To Other Funds	39,372							39,372	22,960
Deferred Revenues (Note G)	165,584							165,584	176,701
Total Liabilities	\$ 345,123	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 345,123	\$ 348,489
Fund Balance:									
Non-spendable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,385	\$ 19,385	\$ 19,145
Restricted	78,248								67,154
Committed	129,225	80,721	4,698	2,210		9,985		85,156	67,142
Unassigned	624,972							219,931	541,096
Total Fund Balance	\$ 832,445	\$ 80,721	\$ 4,698	\$ 2,210	\$ -	\$ 9,985	\$ 19,385	\$ 949,444	\$ 694,537
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 1,177,568	\$ 80,721	\$ 4,698	\$ 2,210	\$ -	\$ 9,985	\$ 19,385	\$ 1,294,567	\$ 1,043,026

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

Exhibit F

TOWN OF HOPE
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND
BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2014 AND 2013

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE		SPECIAL REVENUE		CEMETERY MAINTENANCE	PERMANENT CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE	TOTAL	TOTAL
	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS	FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS	OTHER GRANTS			2014	2013
REVENUES:								
Property and Excise Taxes	\$ 2,810,845	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,810,845	\$ 2,722,740
Licenses and Permits	12,582						12,582	11,050
Intergovernmental Revenues	627,091		94,446				721,537	613,866
Grants and Donations	300	500		2,210			3,010	22,408
Interest Income	19,581	122			6	58	19,767	20,022
Charges for Services	9,927				560	240	10,727	10,576
Other Revenues	6,315	835					7,150	6,079
State Retirement Contribution (Note H)	126,009						126,009	133,175
Total Revenues	\$ 3,612,650	\$ 1,457	\$ 94,446	\$ 2,210	\$ 566	\$ 298	\$ 3,711,627	\$ 3,539,916
EXPENDITURES:								
Education	\$ 2,390,520	\$ -	\$ 92,414	\$ 45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,482,979	\$ 2,387,319
Roads and Bridges	203,364						203,364	350,951
County Tax	214,518						214,518	167,140
Town Administration - Salaries and Benefits	138,155						138,155	141,386
General Administration	39,098						39,098	47,034
Animal Control	9,806						9,806	10,043
Fire Department	39,876	895					40,771	79,500
Ambulance Services	5,908						5,908	5,661
Municipal Building	9,732						9,732	16,460
Street Lights	1,302						1,302	1,241
Sanitation	49,876						49,876	50,607
Professional Services	24,068						24,068	24,724
Cemeteries	11,319						11,319	4,523
Recreation Department	5,055						5,055	1,272
General Assistance	521						521	485
Debt Service	94,239						94,239	97,496
State Retirement Contribution	126,009						126,009	133,175
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,363,366	\$ 895	\$ 92,414	\$ 45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,456,720	\$ 3,519,217
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$ 249,284	\$ 562	\$ 2,032	\$ 2,165	\$ 566	\$ 298	\$ 254,907	\$ 20,699
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):								
Operating Transfers - In	\$ 2,000	\$ 26,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58	\$ -	\$ 28,558	\$ 41,213
Operating Transfers - Out	(26,500)				(2,000)	(58)	(28,558)	(41,213)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$ (24,500)	\$ 26,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,942)	\$ (58)	\$ -	\$ -
Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ 224,784	\$ 27,062	\$ 2,032	\$ 2,165	\$ (1,376)	\$ 240	\$ 254,907	\$ 20,699
Fund Balance, July 1	607,661	53,659	2,666	45	11,361	19,145	694,537	673,961
Fund Balance, June 30	\$ 832,445	\$ 80,721	\$ 4,698	\$ 2,210	\$ 9,985	\$ 19,385	\$ 949,444	\$ 694,660

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

Schedule A-1

TOWN OF HOPE
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

	BUDGET	CARRIED FORWARD	ACTUAL	LAPSED VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)	CARRIED VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
REVENUES:					
General Property Taxes	\$ 2,518,783	\$ -	\$ 2,532,649	\$ 13,866	\$ -
Abatements	(24,609)		(1,576)	23,033	
Excise Taxes - Automobile	235,000		276,739	41,739	
Excise Taxes - Boats			3,033	3,033	
Dog Licenses			2,282	2,282	
Building and Plumbing Permits			10,008	10,008	
Intergovernmental:					
Education Subsidy	488,438		488,438		
Revenue Sharing			61,474	61,474	
Local Road Assistance	35,000		37,096	2,096	
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	29,670		29,670		
Veterans' Reimbursement			1,005	1,005	
Tree Growth Reimbursement			8,093	8,093	
General Assistance Reimbursement	1,500		356	(1,145)	
FEMA Grant	750		959	209	
Interest:					
Delinquent Taxes			17,479	17,479	
Operating Funds			2,102	2,102	
Charges for Services			9,927	9,927	
Miscellaneous	50,000		6,907	(43,093)	
Total Revenues	\$ 3,334,532	\$ -	\$ 3,486,641	\$ 152,108	\$ -
EXPENDITURES:					
Education	\$ 2,404,324	\$ 64,443	\$ 2,390,520	\$ -	\$ 78,247
Roads and Bridges	332,889		203,364	300	129,225
County Tax	214,518		214,518		
Salaries and Benefits	140,308		138,155	2,153	
General Administration	41,131		39,098	2,033	
Animal Control	9,806		9,806		
Public Safety	40,483		39,876	607	
Ambulance Services	5,908		5,908		
Municipal Building	11,767		9,732	2,035	
Street Lights	1,386		1,302	84	
Sanitation	49,876		49,876		
Professional Services	26,120		24,068	2,052	
Cemeteries	9,197	2,122	11,319		
Recreation Department	5,067		5,055	12	
General Assistance	3,000		521	2,479	
Debt Service	94,252		94,239	13	
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,390,032	\$ 66,565	\$ 3,237,357	\$ 11,768	\$ 207,472
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (55,500)	\$ (66,565)	\$ 249,284	\$ 163,876	\$ 207,472
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
Transfers In	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers Out	(26,500)		(26,500)		
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$ (24,500)	\$ -	\$ (24,500)	\$ -	\$ -
Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ (80,000)	\$ (66,565)	\$ 224,784	\$ 163,876	\$ 207,472
Fund Balance, July 1, 2013	578,592		607,661		
Fund Balance (Deficit), June 30, 2014	\$ 498,592	\$ (66,565)	\$ 832,445	\$ 163,876	\$ 207,472

WILLIAM H. BREWER • CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT • 858 WASHINGTON STREET • BATH, MAINE 04530

BOOKKEEPER
Mary Tolles



TREASURER'S REPORT

	Amount Spent July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015	Amount Spent July 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015
Administration – Salaries			
Selectmen	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Town Administrator	48,408	59,752	49,226
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	21,910	22,221	18,373
Deputy Town Clerk	273	2,605	118
Bookkeeper	23,786	24,291	19,861
Custodian	1,815	2,457	1,783
Town Meeting Moderator	140	200	0
Election Clerks	585	615	257
FICA/Medicare	8,886	9,500	7,388
Health Insurance	29,102	20,687	18,586
Workers' Compensation Insurance	1,926	2,550	2,054
Unemployment Insurance	1,324	1,400	716
Subtotal	\$138,155	\$146,278	\$118,362
General Administration			
Property/Liability Insurance	\$11,047	\$11,599	\$11,143
Repair and Maintenance	1,640	2,420	994
Telephone	1,614	1,720	1,200
Website	427	500	384
Training and Workshops	170	500	171
Printing	1,293	2,190	0
Supplies	3,248	2,500	1,340
Software Licenses	7,776	8,355	8,355
Memberships	2,260	2,506	2,396
Postage	4,679	3,638	1,187
Mileage	353	672	134
Equipment	2,040	500	0
Copier Loan	0	0	0
Advertising	345	750	309
Fees	2,084	2,850	2,835
Miscellaneous	122	200	56
Subtotal	\$39,098	\$40,900	\$30,504
Animal Control	\$9,806	\$9,947	\$7,253

	Amount Spent July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015	Amount Spent July 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015
Public Safety			
Fire Chief Stipend	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500
Volunteer Firefighters Stipends	5,914	6,000	3,000
Emergency Mgmt. Director Stipend	1,500	1,500	1,125
Loan Payment	56,504	54,900	54,882
Workers' Comp. Supplemental Ins.	766	800	774
Mowing	1,155	1,155	825
Plowing & Sanding	0	5,950	6,381
Repair and Maintenance	12,368	12,150	9,789
Security	635	564	540
Electricity	1,899	1,712	1,299
Heat	5,882	5,400	4,519
Telephone	1,173	1,225	933
Training/Workshops	557	1,500	526
Supplies	290	400	452
Software Licenses	235	160	160
Memberships	277	250	482
Postage	49	49	49
Equipment	3,642	3,600	1,279
Fuel	1,535	1,600	955
Subtotal	\$96,381	\$100,915	\$89,470
Ambulance Services			
North East Mobile Health Services	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Union Ambulance Service	4,908	5,458	5,458
Subtotal	\$5,908	\$6,458	\$6,458
Municipal Building			
Mowing	\$ 658	\$ 658	\$ 470
Shoveling	2,550	2,700	2,867
Security System	288	532	288
Repair and Maintenance	752	1,500	715
Electricity	1,623	1,824	1,282
Heat	3,356	3,814	2,466
Supplies & Equipment	505	735	680
Subtotal	\$9,732	\$11,763	\$8,768
Recreation			
Mowing	\$ 3,644	\$3,644	\$2,252
Repair and Maintenance	0	700	0
Supplies	266	0	0
Equipment Rental	1,145	1,300	1,195
Subtotal	\$5,055	\$5,644	\$3,447

	Amount Spent July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	Amount Budgeted July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015	Amount Spent July 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015
Street Lights	\$1,302	\$1,420	\$1,068
Roads			
Road Commissioner Stipend	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 112
Plowing and Sanding	98,268	114,900	103,410
Annual Paving	0	70,800	185,297
Repair and Maintenance	52,894	71,905	56,683
Electricity	409	500	419
Supplies – Sand and Salt	44,827	50,280	56,247
Supplies – Other	6,816	24,309	5,279
Subtotal	\$203,364	\$332,844	\$407,447
Sanitation			
Mid-Coast Solid Waste	\$47,576	\$47,607	\$47,607
Septic Contract	2,300	2,300	2,300
Subtotal	\$49,876	\$49,907	\$49,907
Professional Services			
Legal	\$ 2,790	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,105
Assessing	13,920	14,080	5,500
Audit	3,600	3,600	3,600
Other	3,758	1,800	2,199
Subtotal	\$24,068	\$26,480	\$15,404
General Assistance	\$521	\$2,000	\$269
Cemeteries	\$11,319	\$7,663	\$2,685
Capital Improvements			
Fire Truck Replacement Fund	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
South Hope Fire Station Improvements	10,000	5,500	5,500
Fire Department Equipment	0	800	800
Office Equipment and Software	1,500	5,346	5,346
Subtotal	\$21,500	\$21,646	\$21,646
Total Municipal Expenditures	\$ 616,085	\$ 763,865	\$ 762,688
Elementary Education – (K-8)	1,381,665	1,501,134	953,095
Secondary Education – (9-12)	541,863	571,682	476,402
Adult Education – CSD	11,844	11,826	9,855
County Tax	175,740	165,902	165,902
County Dispatch Fees	38,778	39,778	39,778
Total	\$2,765,975	\$3,054,187	\$2,407,720

HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUDGET SUMMARY*(See Special Town Meeting Warrant on page 65.)*

	Proposed Budget 2015-2016	Approved Budget 2014-2015	Inc (Dec) From Prior Year	Percent Change
REVENUES				
EPS State Allocation	\$ 593,120	\$ 552,542	\$ 40,578	7.3%
EPS Local Allocation	1,147,636	1,128,330	19,306	1.7%
Additional Local	343,007	336,036	6,971	2.1%
Local Debt Service Allocation	37,223	36,768	455	1.2%
Carryover	<u>12,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,000</u>	--
Total Revenue	\$2,132,986	\$2,053,676	\$ 79,310	3.9%
Summary:				
State Share	\$ 593,120	\$ 552,542	\$ 40,578	7.3%
Local Share	1,527,866	1,501,134	26,732	1.8%
Carryover	<u>12,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12,000</u>	--
Total Revenue	\$2,132,986	\$2,053,676	\$ 79,310	3.9%
EXPENSES				
K-8 Regular Instruction	\$975,231	\$841,339	\$133,892	15.9%
Gifted and Talented	6,933	6,917	16	.2%
Special Education Instruction	339,702	362,276	(22,574)	(6.2%)
Special Education Office	43,898	42,412	1,486	3.5%
Student Activities – Co-Curricular	14,812	13,325	1,487	11.2%
Student Activities – Athletics	13,196	12,201	995	8.2%
Guidance	32,550	44,493	(11,943)	(26.8%)
Instructional Staff Training	10,898	6,672	4,226	63.3%
Library	31,874	31,302	572	1.8%
Instructional Technology	66,583	63,732	2,851	4.5%
Sub Coordinator	1,083	973	110	11.3%
Health Services	5,248	1,135	4,113	362.4%
Student Assessment	4,805	35,783	(30,978)	(86.6%)
School Committee	9,975	10,500	(525)	(5.0%)
Superintendent	94,930	92,454	2,476	2.7%
Principal	151,195	149,709	1,486	1.0%
Transportation	104,002	100,454	3,548	3.5%
Building Operations and Maintenance	188,848	201,231	(12,383)	(6.2%)
Debt Service	<u>37,223</u>	<u>36,768</u>	<u>455</u>	1.2%
Total Expenses	\$2,132,986	\$2,053,676	\$ 79,310	3.9%
Net Budget	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%



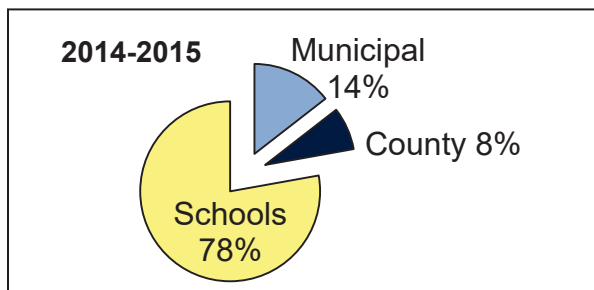
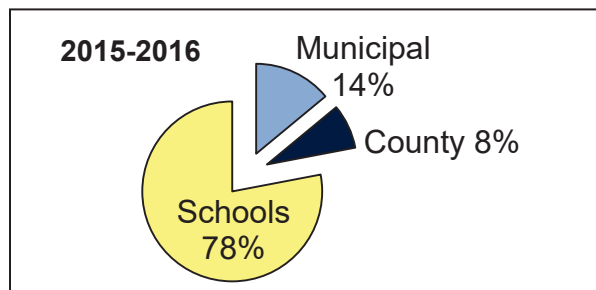
Hope Elementary School

photo by Bill Bentley

BUDGET COMPARISON

	<u>2016</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2015</u> <u>Approved</u> <u>Budget</u>
Municipal budget (Warrant Article 9)	\$ 755,814	\$ 763,865
County tax assessment	217,418	205,680
Hope Elementary School (K-8)	1,527,866	1,501,134
Five-Town CSD (High School/Adult Ed)	613,852	583,508
Abatements and overlay	15,000 est.	36,284
Revenue (Warrant Article 8)	(342,750)	(337,750)
Use of fund balance	<u>(52,400)</u>	<u>(75,000)</u>
Amount to be raised by property taxes	\$2,734,800	\$2,677,721
Total Valuation Base	\$199,500,000 est.	\$198,349,700
Mil rate	\$13.71 est.	\$13.50

For every \$20,000 change in amount to be raised, there is a corresponding mil rate change of 10 cents.

LD1 calculation:

2015 Municipal Property Tax Levy Limit (LD1 cap)	\$472,849
Growth factor (calculation available upon request)	6,100
Decrease (increase) in State Revenue Sharing	<u>18,579</u>
2016 Municipal Property Tax Levy Limit (LD1 cap)	<u>\$497,528</u>
2016 proposed Municipal budget	\$ 755,814
Revenue	(342,750)
Use of fund balance	<u>(52,400)</u>
2016 core municipal commitment	360,664
LD1 cap for 2016	<u>497,528</u>
Amount by which budget exceeds LD1 cap	<u>\$ (136,864)</u>

<u>Historical Mil Rates</u>	<u>FY11</u>	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY16</u>
Town	1.97	2.08	2.14	1.90	1.95	1.88
County	1.00	1.03	1.07	1.09	1.04	1.09
Hope El. School	6.61	6.82	6.97	7.11	7.57	7.66
Five-Town CSD	<u>3.07</u>	<u>2.92</u>	<u>2.72</u>	<u>2.80</u>	<u>2.94</u>	<u>3.08</u>
Total	<u>12.65</u>	<u>12.85</u>	<u>12.90</u>	<u>12.90</u>	<u>13.50</u>	<u>13.71</u>

PRINCIPAL

Danielle S. Fagonde

**HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT**

Hope Elementary School's enrollment at this time is 177 students. We are delighted to add Tara Wagner and Jeremy Holbrook as Ed. Techs, Adam Mitchell as our part-time custodian, and Jack Neal as our Food Service provider.

Hope Elementary School received an A for the second year in a row in the Maine School Performance Grading System. This year, Maine has decided to withhold from grading schools as schools are preparing students and educators for the new English Language Arts and Math portion of the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA), called Smarter Balanced. This is a much more rigorous test aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). While it is the first computer-generated state test, there have been kinks to work out along the way. I am confident that once again, Hope's students will do remarkably well.

Hope students have also distinguished themselves this year in both athletics and academics. Hope Elementary School's soccer team was the Co-ed Busline League Soccer Champion. The Math Team, which consists of 16 middle school students, have successfully competed against 18 middle school teams in the Central Maine Middle School Math League. We had five students qualify for the 6th Grade Honors Music Festival, and two students who qualified for the 7th & 8th Grade Honors Music Festival. One of our eighth graders has qualified for the National Geographic Maine State Geography Bee.

Using the Professional Learning Community (PLC) model to prepare and respond to student needs has been one of our primary focuses this year. This model is very valuable in helping students to progress through a rigorous academic continuum while also helping to make sure the needs of the whole child are met.

Hope Elementary School has been working in collaboration with Appleton Village School, Lincolnville Central School, Camden-Rockport Elementary School, Camden-Rockport Middle School, and Camden Hills Regional High School to prepare our students for the new Proficiency Based Diploma, which will begin with this year's seventh graders.

We have also been working together with Lincolnville Central School and Appleton Village School with the new Educator Effectiveness Bill and developing an Educator Growth Model for School Union 69. Our committee is comprised of both teachers and administrators.

We are in the planning stages for a breakfast program at Hope Elementary School, and we are in the exploration stage for a Pre-K program to start in the fall of 2015.

As always, we thank Partners for Enrichment for providing outstanding drama, music, art, dance, science, and literary experiences for our students and to the PTO for supplementing activities for our whole school.

With the social, educational, and fiscal challenges we are facing, our work as educators is even more critical than ever before, and we thank you for your support.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Elaine Nutter

**CAMDEN HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
FIVE TOWN CSD**

Camden Hills Regional High School continues to garner wide recognition as a great public secondary school that continually strives to become even better. The many achievements of staff and students are made possible because of the considerable support of all five communities – Appleton, Camden, Hope, Lincolnville and Rockport.

CHRHS is a school where excellence is not only valued, but also energetically supported. Students and staff members respond to that positive environment by consistently demonstrating accomplishment, persistence and effort. The four-year graduation rate for CHRHS is over an enviable ninety-three percent. Over seventy-two percent of the one hundred sixty-six students who graduated last year went on to post-secondary education. Of the fifty-eight teachers, thirty-two percent hold a Master's degree or higher, and the average teaching experience of the staff is approximately seventeen years.

Students have an extensive array of courses to satisfy graduation requirements, including advanced placement courses, honors level options, independent study, alternative education options, and technical courses. Many students achieve college credits during their high school career. In addition, a number of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities give students an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and interests.

The Five Town CSD Board of Directors, CSD administrators and staff recognize the need to continually strive for improvement in order for all students to be globally competitive and to graduate prepared for citizenship, post-secondary education, and work. Toward that end, the goals for the 2014-2015 academic year set by the Board of Directors are to increase professional growth of administrators and teachers through a new plan for supervision and evaluation, to consistently use technology as a tool for teaching and learning, and to develop a plan to award diplomas based upon demonstrated proficiency in graduation standards.

Progress toward the annual goals and a broad range of topics are reviewed at the monthly CSD Board of Director meetings, which are open to the public. Agendas and minutes of every CSD Board and committee meeting are posted on the Five Town CSD website, along with much more information about school events and programs. It is impossible to do justice to the deserved recognition of accomplishment and the acknowledgement of ongoing work for continual improvement in this report, so I invite you to attend a meeting, visit the website, or attend any of the school events, performances or demonstrations to enjoy the experiences provided by CHRHS.

Finally, as I will retire at the end of June after a career spanning forty-four years, I want to take the opportunity to thank you for the opportunity to provide service and leadership in a wonderful school system filled with great people.

**MID-COAST SOLID WASTE CORPORATION**

90 Union Street • P.O. Box 1016 • Rockport, ME 04856

Tel: 207-236-2467 Fax: 207-236-7968

James A. Guerra, Director

March 6, 2015

Dear Residents,

As I finish my sixth year managing MCSWC, much of what I am working out in the back of my mind these days is how this facility will operate for the next twenty years, what will it look like and how much will it cost. Questions follow: How can I make recycling easier and more efficient? How can hauling of trash be made more efficient? How can I reduce the amount of time that anyone needs to be here to accomplish their chore? How can I encourage the public to use local haulers when possible? To some degree, the answers to these questions hinge on the fact that we are approaching a point where overall solid waste management in the region is likely to change. As I've mentioned in previous letters, this change is precipitated by the 2018 sun-setting of a lucrative pricing subsidy that has helped to make waste-to-energy incinerators, particularly the one we use, viable for close to thirty years. The choices to be made for beyond 2018 will affect how we operate at this facility.

So far, there are two possibilities for waste disposal post March 31, 2018 other than landfilling. The first, continuing with Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC), is tenuous at this point. At twice the tipping fee as current, the continuing operation of the plant could be jeopardized by loss of trash tonnage as municipalities seek lower cost disposal elsewhere. The controlling partner of PERC calculates it can operate in a sustainable way if trash volume (fuel) stays above 225,000 tons per annum at a tip fee somewhere around \$110 per ton. We currently pay \$55 per ton and the municipalities with long-term contracts currently deliver about 180,000 tons per annum. Necessary waste volume aside, uncertainty arises from the fact that the scenario is dependent on pending legislation (L.Ds. 743 & 273) in Augusta to effectively subsidize the plant's continued operation. We will need to watch this legislation closely to determine its effect on the long-term viability of the waste-to-energy incinerator.

The second disposal possibility could also be considered by some as tenuous. The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) is currently charged with financial oversight of the PERC plant as part of our (charter municipalities) limited ownership in the plant. Their Mission is to ensure long-term, affordable and environmentally sound disposal for its members of which we are one. Recognizing the PERC facility may no longer be viable once electrical price subsidies end in 2018, they began a search for new and emerging technologies that would not require subsidy and would move waste management well into the 21st century. They are now working on a proposed plant located in Hampden, ME which, on paper, diverts 80% of our trash from the landfill and with a goal to operate profitably at \$60 per ton of trash.

The proposed system takes advantage of technology already developed – anaerobic digestion and enzymatic hydrolysis – to reduce our household waste to methane gas and/or other bulk commodity products. The difference is that the feedstock in this application is household waste. The University of Maine Pulp and Paper Engineering Department has performed a due diligence of the process and has provided a very positive review. It's in the translation from paper to reality where we need to pay complete attention but the University feels that the technology is readily scalable. Fortunately, if this project goes forward, it will be after the same plant is built and commissioned in Iowa for a similar population.

So it is clear that the future holds some unknowns regarding the region's solid waste management. The answers should become clearer by the end of this year. This is "none too soon" as the region's communities will have to make choices by end of June 2016. Please stay as informed as you can. We will use the local papers as well as our website to provide more information as it is available (midcoastsolidwaste.org). In the meantime, we have more local plans to consider.

The MCSWC Board of Directors and its Capital and Strategic Planning Committee are working diligently to develop a design for this facility with the aim of increasing recycling and overall throughput efficiency of this facility. Right now we are a rather sprawling facility resulting in more labor and more of your time spent to accomplish what could be a simpler task. All possibilities are on the table including consideration of single stream recycling which would collect all recyclables in one container to be trucked off for mechanical processing elsewhere in the State. Putting the entire household trash handling aspect of the facility under one roof is also a consideration. We will provide opportunity for our local haulers as well as our public to chime in on any plans as concepts become more gelled by the constraints of reality. One thing is for sure, an appropriate increase in our recycling rate would help greatly in controlling the impact of future tip fees and we can do that at any time! Our current rate is languishing below 30% which leaves much room for improvement.

Last year I mentioned that we would attempt to stop the underground flow of water from the open, water-filled quarry on the north of the facility into the south. This effort is ongoing and we will keep you informed of any construction that might clutter access to the facility. The endeavor to stop this flow is part of closing the landfill and would significantly reduce our long-term, post closure costs.

Please be reminded that our annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will again be the third Saturday of June which is the 20th. Lastly, I would be remiss if I failed to mention that the crew we have is here to help. If by chance they point out that something doesn't belong in a particular place – for example, a plastic envelope does not belong with paper items – they truly are not making it up. As end users for recycled commodities become more and more scarce, it becomes much more difficult to market "contaminated" material. Please read signs, grab a new flier at the gate and feel free to ask questions!

Respectfully,
James A. Guerra, Director

ROAD COMMISSIONER
John Monroe



ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

In the last year, projects included preparing Beverage Road and Church Street for paving, paving Beverage Road, Church Street, Harts Mill Road, and Fogler Road, and routine maintenance on other roads

This year proved to be a real tough year for snow plowing and sanding and keeping snow pushed back far enough to maintain two-way traffic in a lot of spots. It turned out that we ran low on sand in February and had to purchase another 500 yards of sand in order to get us through the winter.

The upcoming year includes paving Ludwig Road, preparing Jones Hill Road and Seacoast Road for next year's paving, repair and maintenance on dirt roads, and replacing five culverts (two on Jones Hill Road, two on Gurney Hill Road, and one on Pearse Road.)

I can be reached to report any concerns at 785-4685 or 542-9636.

TOWN OF HOPE
INCORPORATED 1804
MAINE

Home | Hope | Fire Department | Schools | Calendar | Contact Us

Welcome to the Town of Hope's Website!

School Budget Special Town Meeting May 13, 2015

Online services available:

- [Report a problem with a road](#)
- [Renew your vehicle registration](#)
- [Request an absentee ballot](#)
- [Pay your property taxes](#)
- [Request a vehicle registration renewal reminder](#)
- [Request a duplicate vehicle registration](#)
- [Purchase a hunting or fishing license](#)
- [Re-register your boat](#)
- [Re-register your ATV or snowmobile](#)
- [License your dog](#)
- [Get a burn permit](#)

Vehicle Registration Renewals
Rapid Renewal
RENEW ONLINE NOW

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 7:30am - 4:30pm
Wednesday 7:30am - 4:30pm
Thursday 2:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday 7:30am - 4:30pm

Town Office
Selectmen
Committees
Town Services
Finance
How Do I...?
Tax Maps, Assessing & Prop. Taxes
Ordinances
General Assistance
Library
Historical Society
Weather in Hope
Town Reports
Businesses in Hope
Arts and Recreation

What's New?

Informational meeting about proposed pre-K program May 11 at 6PM at Hope Elementary School

CSD Budget Meeting May 26, 2015

Information for Election (June 9) and Town Meeting (June 15)

Order your Hope Community Birthday Calendar now

Public Hearing - Union Chemical property ownership - May 26 6:30PM at Hope Elementary School

FIRE CHIEF
Clarence Keller

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT



It is with great pleasure that I submit my annual report on the activities of the Hope Fire Department. In 2014 the department responded to 48 calls. The calls included the following:

6 motor vehicle accidents	13 mutual aid calls	1 structure fire	6 alarm investigations
3 road hazards	1 flooded oil burner	2 propane alarms	1 carbon monoxide
3 wires down	3 water salvage	4 EMS assist	5 miscellaneous

YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU! This day and age volunteerism in America is declining. The average age of the fire department volunteers is increasing. We are seeking motivated males and females to join the team and volunteer for your community fire department. Contact me at 542-2694 if you are interested in finding out more.

In 2014 we saw a small drop in the number of calls that we responded to and the types of calls we are responding to are not severe. I would like to congratulate and thank the residents of Hope for being a fire safe community! Our efforts of public safety education are paying off! Let's all continue the good work for years to come! Even with the severity of the calls declining over the years, we cannot let our guard down. We need to continue, training our personnel and maintaining the equipment. As our motto states: "HOPEing for the Best - Prepared for the Worst"

As always a special **THANK YOU** to the volunteers for all their hard work and dedication that make your fire department one that we can all be proud of. It is their commitment to providing this service to the townspeople of Hope that makes Hope such a great place to live. Without them fire protection for the Town of Hope would certainly cost us more in tax dollars.



DIRECTOR
Clarence Keller



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



It is with pleasure that I submit my annual report on the activities of your Emergency Management Agency program.

Over the past year as we continue our regular monthly training sessions, maintaining our National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) Compliancy, updating plans and such I have been working to move Emergency Management to the next level in Hope.

This year after bringing the new selectmen up to snuff with their required NIMS training I decided to work on setting up a table top exercise (TTX). A table top exercise is a training exercise when we put all the players of a given municipality in the same room around a table and role play a simulated large scale emergency. This gives all participants an opportunity to better understand their roles in the event of a real emergency. So in December we had our TTX at the Hope Corner Fire Station. We had representatives from Hope Fire, Hope School, Superintendent's Office, Knox County EMA, Central Maine Power, American Red Cross, and The Hope Board of Selectmen as well as observers from Camden Fire and EMA. This was a great opportunity and I believe all participants gained some valuable information from this exercise.

I have also become a member of the Hope School Safety Team and have been regularly attending their monthly meetings. It is great to see Principal Danielle Fagonde has continued to carry the baton of safety at Hope Elementary School as Carol Hathorne handed it to her two years ago. She takes the safety of Hope's children's very seriously.

On behalf of the EMA program, I would like to thank the municipal officials and their staff, the county staff for their support and assistance, and all in Hope who support this effort.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
Heidi J. Blood

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER'S REPORT

Heidi J Blood here, new ACO for the Town of Hope. I am also the Animal Control Officer for Lincolnville, Northport and Swanville. I look forward to serving the town of Hope and encourage all to contact me with any questions, complaints or concerns regarding Animal Control. I reside in Searsmont with an array of my own animals, both inside pets and livestock.

Just a few quick notes for you:

Dog licenses expire each year on December 31, regardless of when it was first done. You can renew your dog's license for the next year any time after October 15. A state mandated late fee is applied starting February 1st. You can renew your dog's license at the Town Office or online. Follow the link at www.hopemaine.org. Licensing your dog and keeping their tags on them is an invaluable tool to ensure its safe return to you if he/she finds itself lost. We have almost 400 dogs licensed in Hope.

It is Maine Law that every dog AND cat be currently vaccinated against rabies. If you are unsure of your pet's vaccination status, please call me, or your veterinarian. Most vaccines are good for three years after a pet's initial rabies vaccine which is only good for one year. Rabies is currently in every county of Maine, including Waldo and Knox County.

I have live traps available for borrowing if you find yourself in need of trapping a nuisance animal. I also have several kennels and other equipment available.

Again, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, complaints or concerns regarding animals in Hope. I can be reached at 322-3237 or hjb04915@yahoo.com.

The screenshot shows the Town of Hope's website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, About Hope, Fire Department, Schools, Calendar, and Contact Us. On the left is a green sidebar menu with links to various town services. The main content area has a green header that says "Welcome to the Town of Hope's Website!". Below this is a list of "Online services available" with links for reporting road problems, renewing vehicle registration, requesting absentee ballots, paying property taxes, renewing vehicle registration, requesting duplicate vehicle registration, purchasing hunting/fishing licenses, re-registering boats, re-registering ATVs/snowmobiles, licensing dogs, and getting burn permits. A white callout box with a black border points to the "License your dog" link, containing the text: "You can license your dog online between October 15 and January 31. Go to www.hopemaine.org and click here." To the right of the callout is a "RENEW ONLINE NOW" button. On the far right is a blue sidebar with "What's New?" section listing upcoming events like a national meeting and a town meeting.

Home | About Hope | Fire Department | Schools | Calendar | Contact Us

Town Office
Selectmen
Committees
Town Services
Finance
How Do I...?
Tax Maps, Assessing & Prop. Taxes
Ordinances
General Assistance
Library
Historical Society
Weather in Hope
Town Reports
Businesses in Hope
Arts and Recreation

TOWN OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday 7:30am - 4:30pm
Wednesday 7:30am - 4:30pm
Thursday 2:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday 7:30am - 4:30pm

Welcome to the Town of Hope's Website!

School Budget Special Town Meeting

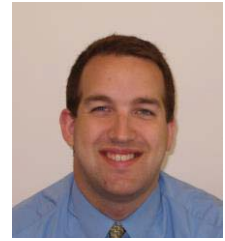
Online services available
[Report a problem with a road](#)
[Renew your vehicle registration](#)
[Request an absentee ballot](#)
[Pay your property taxes](#)
[Request a vehicle registration renewal](#)
[Request a duplicate vehicle registration](#)
[Purchase a hunting or fishing license](#)
[Re-register your boat](#)
[Re-register your ATV/snowmobile](#)
[License your dog](#)
[Get a burn permit](#)

RENEW ONLINE NOW

What's New?
National meeting proposed pre-K May 11 at 6PM
Town Meeting and Election Information
Order your Hope Community Birthday Calendar now
Public Hearing - Union Chemical property ownership - May 26 6:30PM at Hope Elementary School
Annual Household

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Jonathan Duke



CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER / LOCAL PLUMBING INSPECTOR REPORT

The long Maine winter which set records for snowfall and low temperatures is finally over and with the late thaw have come residents, buyers, developers, and real estate agents eager to improve land in Hope. It's unclear at this time if this is the end to what has been a very stagnant construction period in the Town of Hope, but judging by the real estate transfers of past months, the best may be to come. Allow me to offer a few tips for those who may be interested in obtaining a building permit in Hope:

- Ensure you have the proper setbacks from adjacent properties, the road, or the water. Hope has three zoning districts in addition to several more within the shoreland zone, and each area has distinct regulations for setbacks. Please check with me or with the Land Use Ordinance to make sure your proposed construction is compliant.
- Better fences may make better neighbors, but any construction near a lot line can be a source of dispute between property owners. Whenever possible, talk with your neighbors about your plans to build before obtaining a permit. Often issues that may arise with neighbors can be smoothed out prior to obtaining a permit and can avoid the potential of appeals being filed.
- No one wants to hear that they have to hire an engineer, lawyer or surveyor, but any development of any size should also follow the "measure twice, cut once" philosophy. The value of land is such that any divisions should be done properly and with the assistance of trained individuals who can guide you through the process and look out for your best interests. What may seem like a great idea today may not look as great tomorrow if all of your options aren't considered and fixing issues with land development can be even more costly.
- Adding to or subtracting bedrooms from a home can often be accomplished without a building permit, but that change to the structure may very well impact the septic system attached. Particularly if you are adding bedrooms to a dwelling, ensure that the septic system has adequate capacity for this addition.
- Though rarely discussed, access to a property is crucial in its development. The still relatively new Land Use Ordinance has definite guidelines about the requirements of private ways used to access newly developed property. These guidelines include the width of the right of way, the width of the traveled way, depth of base material, and more. Please consult these guidelines carefully when you consider building on an undeveloped lot off the road.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Single-Family Dwelling Permits	14	8	5	9	8	6	8	7
Total Building Permits	55	53	56	45	39	33	30	30

CHAIR

Tug Kellough

PLANNING BOARD

The Hope Planning Board had a fairly quiet year. The Land Use Ordinance continues to show itself to be a big improvement over what we had previously.

There was one minor subdivision that the board reviewed and ultimately passed. It became an opportunity to fully implement the protocols of the Land Use Ordinance. These protocols allowed for maximum transparency and for the concerns of the abutters to be fully addressed. Documentation of each step in the process has also been improved.

So far, 2015 looks to be quiet. There are no notable projects on the horizon at this time. We hope the focus on the next couple of years will be updating the town's comprehensive plan, which is now long overdue.



Marcellus Taylor Store on Main Street (site of present day Pushaw's Trading Post)
photo, taken in 1895, is courtesy of Hope Historical Society

CHAIR
Tom Ford

**BOARD OF APPEALS
BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

The citizens appointed to the Hope Board of Appeals serve our town in two distinct roles. We serve as a **Zoning Board of Appeals** and are also appointed by the Selectmen as a **Board of Assessment Review**. Each board has distinct responsibilities.

Zoning Board of Appeals: As *Zoning Board of Appeals* members we are called upon by both state law and our local ordinances to perform four specific functions: 1. Interpret provisions of an ordinance, 2. Grant special exceptions when authorized by an ordinance, 3. Grant variances in compliance with ordinance provisions, and 4. Hear appeals from a determination of the Planning Board or Code Officer.

Every town in Maine that adopts a zoning ordinance is required by state law to have a Zoning Board of Appeals. This has been the case in Hope since the 1970's.

During 2014 the Board of Appeals did not have a single case presented for review. We believe this is good news since it generally reflects a positive balance in land use activities.

We are also happy to report an equitable outcome to an appeal in late 2013 by Michael and Marie Batz from a determination of the Hope Planning Board to deny a building permit application for a structure to be located in the Resource Protection District. The Appeals Board upheld the Planning Board decision with a recommendation that the Zoning Map should be carefully reviewed.

The Batz hearing resulted in a reexamination of portions of the Resource Projection District to more accurately reflect topography and vegetation on the ground. These map revisions were approved by the voters of Hope at the June 2014 Annual Town Meeting. The Zoning Board would like to applaud the efforts of the Town Administrator and Planning Board in working through this issue.

Board of Assessment Review: Citizens who serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals are also appointed by the Municipals Officers to serve on an independent Board of Assessment Review. This has been the practice in Hope since 1986 when a Town Meeting vote created a Board of Assessment Review and designated ZBA members to serve on that Board

Fortunately we have not had a Board of Assessment Review hearing since 2005. Hopefully that pattern will continue but if the need arises we stand ready to provide a fair determination to citizens seeking assessment adjustments.

To Charlie Crockett – Many Thanks: After 34 years of service on the Hope Board of Appeals Charlie Crockett has retired and moved to Rockport. Through the years Charlie was a beacon of reason, decency and civility on the Board. As you and Penny move onto new challenges we wish you fair winds and smooth sailing in all your future endeavors.

CHAIR AND SEXTON

Janice Campbell

CEMETERY COMMITTEE



Rear row from left: Bernie Holmes, Jan Campbell, Joe Berry
Front row from left: Jean Ettlinger, Marie Powers

Once again, the Cemetery Committee has been very busy! In Hope Grove Cemetery, the road in and out of the cemetery seems to be holding up well from our improvement last year. As some residents have noticed, we have continued to shift our focus to Hope Grove in the cleaning and restoration of stones. Bill Macomber from the Maine Old Cemetery Association worked on this project and commented on how he enjoyed people stopping by to admire his work and chat.

Our goals for this year include replacing the chains that run along Hatchet Mountain Road in the front of Hope Grove. Most are broken and hanging. Those will be replaced with new chain and that will enable us to install the signage for the winter months to curtail traffic. We have removed bushes and growth from along the stone wall that separates the new from the old section of Hope Grove. We have decided that it is too expensive to completely reset the wall, and will be working with a local mason to repair sections that are in need of care. Cleaning and restoration will continue in Hope Grove this year.

Hope Grove Cemetery has been mapped out. There are new lots available that were once considered aisle ways. The entire cemetery will be newly deeded to correctly reflect the revised row numbers and the allocation amounts of the lot fee that was paid when the lot was purchased. Those figures on the original deed were not listed correctly.

Janice Campbell was reappointed as Hope Cemetery Sexton. Please call her with any questions. It is the responsibility of the Sexton to coordinate grave openings with funeral homes and families to ensure the accuracy of burial records. If you are interested in purchasing a lot in Hope Grove Cemetery, please contact Janice at 542-5455. Current members of the committee are: Janice Campbell, Jean Ettlinger, Joe Berry, Bernie Holmes and Marie Powers.

PRESIDENT
Rob Pfeiffer

ALFORD LAKE – LERMOND POND ASSOCIATION

My how time flies. It was only last week that we were out checking on the water clarity on Alford Lake and now we are living in an igloo buried in what will become significant runoff come spring. It only seems like a week ago but time does march on and so do some of the threats to our lakes, ponds and other bodies of water. Whatever is in the air, snow, rain, or on the ground, will eventually end up in our water. So, how vigilant are we willing to be? There are now studies indicating that our pets are getting sick from drinking from some of the lakes in Maine. The runoff carries phosphorus and that feeds algae blooms which can and do poison the water. We now have Harmful Algal Blooms also called HABs which can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals. Hepatotoxins can affect the liver with symptoms such as skin/sinus irritations, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or gastroenteritis. Neurotoxins affect the nervous system and can lead to Very Fast Death Syndrome. Symptoms here include muscle twitching, decreased movement, collapse, cyanosis, convulsions and death. Both of these toxins are produced by algae. A dog became quite ill in Parsonfield after lapping up water from Province Lake. There is also a cyan-neurotoxin under study which is thought to have something to do with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), Alzheimer's, Multiple Sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease. I cite all of this information for two reasons. First of all, algae is the source and can be controlled. Second, if someone you know has any of these symptoms, you may be able to speed their recovery by knowing from whence the symptoms came.

We were unable to get the buffer gardens in over at Beaver Lodge last summer. The plan is to redouble our efforts this summer and plant three gardens there which should significantly reduce runoff down the sloping front lawn at the lodge as well as beautify the site for weddings and other events. There were three buffer gardens completed – one on Lermond Pond and two on Alford Lake. We are encouraging all lakefront property owners to look at their property from the water's edge and to imagine how water will run off. Our soil is phosphorus rich here in Maine so letting the water flow unimpeded may contribute to algae blooms. Buffer gardens can be an attractive addition to your waterfront which will also keep our water cleaner and clearer. So, a major effort on our part as an association will be going towards buffer gardens. We now have a new designation called Lake Smart which promotes buffer gardens. There will be signs posted on properties which have been evaluated (by invitation only!) and accepted into the program. We already have two properties so designated and are hoping to have several more by the fall. Please call if you would like more information (763-4405).

We also plan to monitor water clarity and search for invasive plants. We will be sponsoring boat inspections at Beaver Lodge again this summer. We will be collaborating with the Alford Lake Girls' Camp to do "Plant Paddles" and will collaborate with Knox County Fish and Game to check boats before launching.

With this much snow as of this writing (February 20), we can expect very high water come spring which brings with it erosion. This is a sad consequence to nature's playing around so let's work together to restore our shorelines and monitor runoff and plant growth.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Doug Sensenig

COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST

Coastal Mountains Land Trust has worked in the Town of Hope and the western Penobscot Bay region since 1986. We are a non-profit conservation organization that works to conserve wildlife habitat, scenic landscapes, outdoor recreation, water resources, and productive forest and farmland. Thanks to our community and membership support, we have protected 9,744 acres throughout our service region and have many active projects.

The Land Trust has completed a total of eight conservation projects in Hope. We have protected 281 acres by conservation easements, a permanent agreement that keeps land in private ownership while protecting critical resources of the properties. We also acquire full title to properties that have extraordinary conservation value. This includes Hatchet Mountain Preserve. These properties are part of the network of preserves we are establishing throughout the region, open to the public for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and other activities that do not degrade the natural and scenic features of the properties.

Since last year's annual report, we have not completed any new land protection projects in Hope, although several are currently in discussion with landowners.

Our office is located at 101 Mt. Battie Street in Camden, open 8:30am to 5:00pm weekdays, and we encourage those interested in our program to stop in for a visit, call us at (207) 236-7091, or visit our website at www.coastalmountains.org.



Hatchet Mountain

photo by Scott Horty



GEORGES RIVER LAND TRUST

Discover the River. Care for the Land.

The Georges River Land Trust is **your** local conservation organization. Our watershed is a unique and historic area of mountains, seacoast, lakes, and inlets through which the beautiful St. George River flows. Discover our river and how we can care for the land together.

In 2014, we consulted on conservation of a 100-acre farm in Hope, assessed long-range plans to expand the Georges Highland Path from Ragged Mountain to the Appleton Preserve, and held a photography event on conserved land at Mansfield Pond.

WHAT DOES THE LAND TRUST OFFER?

JOIN US FOR AN EVENT:

- Jun 11 Wildflower walk, *W. Rockport*★
- Jul 12 Gardens in the Watershed Tour✚
- Jul 31 Full moon hike, *Searsmont*★
- Aug 13 Barefoot kids walk, *Thomaston*★
- Sep 24 Pepper Hill Equestrian Tour, *S. Thom.*✚
- Oct 17 Oktoberfeast! *South Hope*✚
- ★ Free; ✚ Ticketed event

EXPLORE A TRAIL:

- Appleton Preserve, *Appleton*
- Thorndike Brook Trail, *West Rockport*
- Mt. Pleasant Trail, *Rockport*
- Spruce Mt. Trail, *Rockport*
- Ragged Mountain, *Camden*



*Mansfield Pond
Hope*

For trail maps and more event details, visit us online at www.GeorgesRiver.org.

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?

Georges River Land Trust is interested in expanding conservation around Mansfield Pond. We are always looking for volunteers. Contact us today and let us know if you have an interest in joining us on the trail, in the office, or if you have a question regarding conservation in your area. We would love to hear from you!

Georges River Land Trust • (207) 594-5166 • info@grlt.org • www.georgesriver.org

SECRETARY
Nancy Keller

HATCHET MOUNTIAN SNO-RIDERS

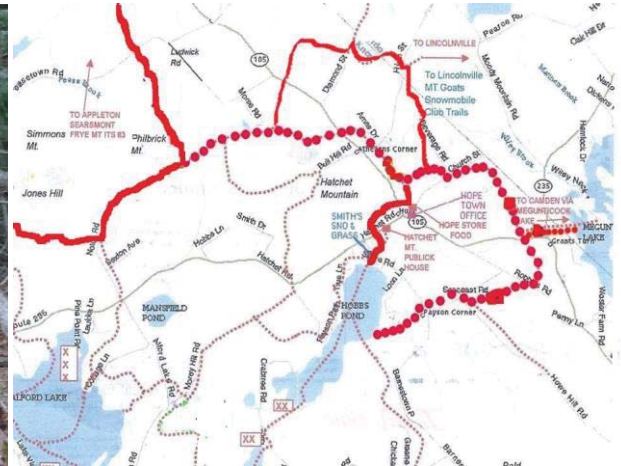
This season has been very historic, with the storm in November and the many storms in January, February, and March. There was a significant amount of tree damage to the trails which needed to be cleaned up. The local riding was very good this year. A special thank you goes out to all the people who help clear and groom the trails. This has been a very long cold and snowy winter and we are looking forward to warmer weather.

Every year we give out two scholarships to graduating high school students from Hope. To raise the money for the scholarships, we provide cottage care for the summer residents by keeping an eye on their cottages during the winter months. We continue to support the Pine Tree Camp for adults and children with disabilities. This upcoming year members will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for the camp.

Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. from September thru April at the Hope Corner Fire Station. We have potluck dinners and once in a while we go out to a restaurant. We invite anyone who would like to join to come and hear the snowmobiling stories.



Trail damage from November storm



Hope's snowmobile trails
(maps available at the Town Office)

**THE HATCHET MOUNTAIN SNO-RIDERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL
THE LANDOWNERS WHO PERMIT SNOWMOBILERS TO USE THEIR LAND.**

**WE INVITE THESE LANDOWNERS TO JOIN US AT OUR SEPTEMBER
MEETING FOR A HOT DOG ROAST**

PLEASE CALL NANCY KELLER AT 763-4118 FOR DETAILS

PRESIDENT
David Hall

HOBBS AND FISH PONDS ASSOCIATION

The Association has remained active in its mission to maintain clean healthy pond water and a diversified natural environment. We continue to monitor the pond water quality throughout the summer, sampling 3 sites 3-4 times in three months. We test for bacterial contamination and water clarity. Fortunately we had no recurrence of the high bacteria counts found for a short period in 2013. Testing results will be posted on our web site.

The Association has also been working with the Town to attempt to resolve some safety issues, particularly safe parking and safety for children and adults walking along Barnestown Rd while going to the Pond landing.

Members and the public gathered for a picnic after the Hobbs Pond Tenth Annual Swim. We had a good turnout and had a chance to meet our neighbors. Once again we had a July 4th boat parade. The Annual Meeting featured a guest speaker, Danielle D'Auria, of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. She presented some of her own research and information about the Great Blue Heron and their reflection of water quality and habitat.

Other projects we are undertaking are: Critter Catchers, a program for youth to sample and learn about the small creatures living in our ponds, and a program to sample the pond for invasive species. Volunteers are always welcome.

Membership is open to all and costs only \$25 for a year. Come and join us as members or guests at our next annual meeting to be held July 15th at 6 pm.

Please visit our web site, where you can also join as a member. <http://hobbsfishponds.org/>

Or: PO Box 2043, Hope, Maine 04847

If you have questions please call David Hall, at 763-4043



Kayaking Hobbs *photo by Scott Harty*

PRESIDENT

Donovan Bowley

HOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As in past years, during the spring, summer and fall of 2014, our museum at Hope Corner was open from 9AM to 12 noon or later on most Mondays as Donovan Bowley and Treasurer Gwen Brodis worked on the archives, and also occasionally by appointment for researchers. Some of the gifts during 2014 were: Richard Crabtree's donation of Robert T. Bowley's letters from the 1856 California gold fields; Payson-Fogler Reunion Commemorative Plate 1883-1982 & Genealogy from Stephen Usher; Civil War letters of Prentiss M. Fogler from Stephen Usher; Civil War letters to Horace Wentworth from C. R. Mathews, transcribed by Anne Messer Jamison, gift of Ron Howard; Hope School Library Proprietors list 1868 to 1873; 1877 Tax Bill to Seth Bartlett for \$7.24, gift of Peter W Karl, Rockland; Sanford Howard's 1874 diary; Record of School District #2 Hope 1828-1843 from Tom Hardy; Settlement of Olive King True's Estate; Carleton/ Simmons Account Book & Ledgers, 1835 to 1838; and Hope Tax Collectors Record of W. O. Norwood, 1900 to 1903, gift of Gwen Brodis.

Member Cindy DellaPenna published her compilation of social news from Hope from the *Courier-Gazette* from 1888 to 1907, available from Cindy or from Lulu Publishing, as *Array of Hope*. This includes about 700 pages of interesting detail on Hope families of that era, with an extensive and detailed index to the contents. Most longtime families of Hope will find information of interest. Member Tom Hardy continues revision of Anna Hardy's 1990 *History of Hope*. We look for publication of this new edition in the near future.

Webmaster Bob Appleby continues to add interesting items to www.hopehist.com, our website that now hosts more than 300 visits per day. Items are added from time to time.

The Hope Historical Society's big project this past year has been the construction of the new Faith Hart meeting room and the rebuilding of the first floor bathroom to make it handicap accessible. This has been possible through many gifts in Faith's memory and the generous responses to recent Annual Appeals, as well as to contributions of work and materials from Paul Hart, Tom Ford, Richard and Ann Bresnahan, Robbins Lumber, Rankins, Floor Magic, Dick Brodis, and McIntyre Builders. We expect to be meeting in the new room in May 2015.

During the construction period, our meetings have been held in the Hope Fire Station, courtesy of the Town of Hope and the Fire Department. Monthly meetings in 2014 included: in April, Brian Powers of Hart's Blueberries; in June, "Hope Remembers," a panel of several longtime residents - Edith Brown, Viola Richardson, Estelle Libby, Robert and Geneva Hall, Hartley and Florence Beverage, Mildred O'Jala, Barbara Ludwig and Lawrence and Janet Pease - shared their memories of Hope in years past. In July, Thornton Batty, Jr., spoke on "Civil War Soldiers," with special attention to Hope's soldiers. In August, Cindy DellaPenna presented her new publication, *Array of Hope*. The September meeting saw Elliot Mitchell's reminiscences, "Experiencing the World at the 1996 Olympics." In October our Remembrance of Hope continued with a presentation by John Crabtree. November saw Jane Mitchell and "South Hope Dreaming," and in December we enjoyed our annual Christmas Brunch and informal discussion.

Again, this year, Florance Merrifield donated a colorful twin bed quilt made with her customary skill, to raffle for the benefit of the Hope Historical Society. Ann Leadbetter and Florance represented the Society at Hope School's Handicraft Fair.

LIBRARY BOARD

Beth Guiseley

HOPE LIBRARY

443 Camden Rd., Hope ME
website: www.hope.lib.me.us

phone: 763-3553
e-mail: hope@hope.lib.me.us

In our efforts to meet the needs and interests of Hope residents and visitors, we revised a number of library policies this year to stay current with state and federal guidelines. Most important to our community at this time was the *Electronic Information Network Policy* which was created to provide protection for children when using the Internet while using patron laptops. A *User Agreement* supports this policy. Both are available at the Library Desk.

The King Grant has given us many opportunities to generate a variety of exhibits. In addition to the Langlais Display, we have had the Hall Family Display, and are in the midst of co-planning a Hope Elementary School Art Exhibit with the Art Teacher. We welcome any groups or individuals to tell us what talents you would like to share or see shared here with our community.

The Maine State Library has been very fortunate to be able to hire an Early Literacy Coordinator to work with parents, teachers, library staff, and volunteers to provide for training in the very important educational years of birth through pre-school. Training is expected to begin in the Midcoast area in May. Having met Shannon, we are all excited about the advantages she brings. We sincerely hope that parents and volunteers will grasp this opportunity to delight Hope's youngest residents with her stories and literacy activities. Shannon is a huge asset to us all!

New books in all areas for all ages are appearing regularly, as well as Audio books, DVDs and Kindles loaded with e-books. There are two adult Kindles, two young adult Kindles, and two juvenile Kindles to borrow and try out.

Last fall, we heard e-book lovers say that you wanted to be able to download e-books from the State Library's Download Library to your own e-devices. Since Hope Library is now a "live" member of the Download Library, all those opportunities will be yours when training is completed. All you will need is your Hope Library Card or a Maine State Library Card. You don't have a card or can't find it? Come in! We'll check the file. If you don't have one, we'll create a new one.

Book Club is going very well. A variety of literary styles have been shared. Group decisions help us choose the books we plan to read. They've resulted in some very interesting discussions.

Book Donations: We welcome donations of relatively current books that are in good condition.

Book Sales: Some are always on sale in the Library on designated bookcases.

Suggestions are always welcome. Many a terrific idea has come from a simple suggestion!

Do come in and see! Take advantage of what's available in YOUR library!



Senator David Miramant
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1515

Dear Friends of Hope,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Senator. I appreciate the support and look forward to representing our community. As I traveled around the district over the past year, it was a pleasure to meet with many of you and to hear your thoughts. The feedback is invaluable for me to best represent you.

Maine is a great place to call home. Our natural beauty and quality of life are unmatched. But it is the people who make this a special place. Mainers believe in family, hard work and community. We all know when times get tough, our neighbors and communities come together and work together for what is best – and I will do the same with my colleagues in the Legislature. Maine is full of promise and potential and I will work hard for the people, businesses, and interests of our region.

As part of my effort to bring matters happening in Augusta back home to our district, I am pleased to email a legislative newsletter to share information about ongoing legislative issues and useful resources. Please contact me to join. I can be reached locally at (207) 236-4845 or by email at davemiramant@gmail.com.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to represent you in the Legislature. I look forward to seeing you around town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Miramant", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Miramant
State Senator



Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

March 30, 2015

Town of Hope
441 Camden Rd
Hope, ME 04847

Dear Citizens of Hope,

Maine has a long tradition of civil participation in both state and local government, and I thank you for being informed and involved citizens.

My vision for Maine is prosperity, not poverty. For this reason, one of my top priorities is the reduction and eventual elimination of the income tax. Not only does an income tax cut put more money back in your pockets, but it will attract businesses that can offer good paying careers to keep our young people here in Maine. Further, this tax cut maximizes one of our existing resources — tourism — and ensures the millions of visitors who come to Vacationland each year contribute their small part to our economy.

Simply put, this proposal results in an immediate pay raise for all of you hard-working Mainers. It creates stronger and even more vibrant communities as we show people that we are serious about wanting people and businesses to come — and stay — in Maine.

If we are to make Maine prosperous, we must also work hard to reduce our heating and energy costs. I am committed to lowering the cost of energy, not only to attract job creators, but also to allow Maine people to affordably and effectively heat and power their homes.

And finally, it is of utmost importance that we begin to address the growing drug problem in our state. Maine's people are its most precious commodity, and our safety is being threatened by the drugs that are entering our state each and every day. My goal is to face the problem head on by employing more drug agents, prosecutors and judges before the epidemic destroys our communities.

It is a pleasure serving as your Governor. If ever I can be of assistance to you or if you have any questions or suggestions, I encourage you to contact my office by calling 287-3531 or by visiting our website at www.maine.gov/governor.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

TTY USERS CALL 711

www.maine.gov

PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

FAX: (207) 287-1034



CHELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT, MAINE

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. It's an honor to represent you in Congress. Thank you for the chance to update you on my work there and in Maine.

Like many here at home, I find the current partisan environment in Washington and Congress to be very frustrating. Attempts to take away people's health care, weaken environmental protections, and stoke controversy have been put ahead of more meaningful work to create jobs, help people through tough times, and give our children a better future.

Still, I have tried to find opportunities to work on issues where my colleagues across the aisle and I can find agreement. As a member of the minority party, I'm very proud that these efforts have earned several legislative victories that benefit the people of our state.

One of the most significant was passage of a Farm Bill containing many reforms I introduced to help the kind of small, diversified, family farms that we have here in Maine. These included more funding to help these farms meet the growing demand for healthy local food, as well as better insurance to fit their needs and helping SNAP recipients use benefits at farmers markets.

Another bill I introduced was signed into law, initiating a study of the York River to see if it is a good candidate for the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers program. The classification would help protect this important natural resource while potentially bringing more visitors to the area and an increased amount of federal investment for its conservation. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I've worked to secure other investments for the state as well, including \$20 million to replace a crumbling, unhealthy and outdated tribal school in Washington County.

But not all the work I do is from Washington. My offices in Portland and Waterville assist hundreds of constituents every year who have issues with federal agencies and programs—veterans benefits, Social Security, and Passports among them. If you have a problem where I might be of assistance, I encourage you to call (207) 774-4019. My staff and I welcome the opportunity to serve you.

Again, it's a pleasure to represent you in Congress. Please keep in touch.

Best wishes,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Washington
2162 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6116

Portland
2 Portland Fish Pier
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 774-5019

Waterville
1 Silver Street
Waterville, ME 04901
(207) 873-5713

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2523
(202) 774-2633 (FAX)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

Dear Friends:

In November, the people of Maine entrusted me to serve another term in the United States Senate. I am deeply honored to serve you and will continue to work to bridge the partisan divide and to forge bipartisan solutions to the many challenges our nation faces. With the New Year just beginning, I welcome this opportunity to reflect on some of my work from this past year and to highlight some of my priorities for the year ahead.

The biggest challenge facing our State remains the need for more jobs so that Mainers can stay in our great State to live, work, and raise their families. Since small businesses create the vast majority of jobs, we must help them to start up, grow, and succeed. We must update our tax code to encourage small business investment in equipment and other assets, cut the red tape that is hampering job creators, build the transportation and energy infrastructure to support an expanding economy. We must also foster opportunities for key industries, from agriculture to defense. We must ensure that our workers have the skills they need for the jobs of today and tomorrow. These initiatives will remain my top priorities in the new Congress.

I am pleased to report a number of successes from this past year, including provisions from my “Seven Point Plan for Maine Jobs.” My proposals to streamline job training programs and better match workers’ skills with employers’ needs were enacted as part of a workforce investment act. I helped secure promising manufacturing opportunities for our state—from requiring the military to buy American-made athletic footwear for new recruits, just as it does for other uniform items, to an additional Department of Energy investment in the deepwater, offshore wind power project being developed by the University of Maine, Maine Maritime Academy, and private companies. For Maine agriculture, I succeeded in including the fresh, white potato in a federal nutrition program from which it has been the only vegetable to be excluded.

Also last year, I was pleased to join in the christening of the *USS Zumwalt* at Bath Iron Works, a Navy ship for the 21st Century that will help protect our nation and strengthen one of Maine’s most vital industries. And, for Veterans living in rural areas, I secured a two-year extension of the successful Access Received Closer to Home program, which is improving access to health care for Veterans in northern Maine. Finally, after several years in the making, I am delighted that Congress has approved my legislation to form a commission – at no cost to taxpayers – on the creation of a National Women’s History Museum. A museum recognizing the contributions of American women is long overdue, and this bill is an important first step toward that goal.

In the new Congress, I will serve as Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee. This position will allow me to continue working to ensure investments are made in critical transportation infrastructure, which is essential for our safety and economic growth. To date, Maine has received more than \$90 million for highway, bridge, airport, rail, and port projects through the successful TIGER grant program.

I will also serve at the helm of the Senate Special Committee on Aging in the 114th Congress, a position I sought because Maine has the highest median age in the nation. Working to address pressing issues facing our seniors, from long-term care and retirement security to the vast potential of biomedical research, will be on our agenda. Preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer’s should be an urgent national priority as this devastating disease continues to take such a personal and economic toll on more than five million Americans and their families. The Committee will also continue to focus on the scams and frauds targeting our senior citizens and has a toll-free hotline (1-855-303-9470) where seniors and their loved ones can report suspected fraud.

A Maine value that always guides me is our unsurpassed work ethic. As 2014 ended, I continued my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997; a tally that now stands at more than 5,700 consecutive votes.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the great State of Maine and the people of Hope. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact my Augusta Constituent Services Center at (207) 622-8414, or visit my website at www.collins.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

359 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: <http://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
INTELLIGENCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Town of Hope
441 Camden Rd,
Hope, ME 04847

Dear Friends,

It has been a privilege to serve the State of Maine since being sworn into the U.S. Senate in January of 2013. First off, I want to make sure you know how to reach my offices, as I welcome your thoughts, questions, or concerns. You can call our toll-free, in-state line at **1-800-432-1599**. In addition, our local numbers are as follows: Augusta (207) 622-8292, Presque Isle (207) 764-5124, Scarborough (207) 883-1588, and Washington D.C. (202) 224-5344. You can also provide your input on our website at www.king.senate.gov.

Maine is a large state; I know that traveling to our offices can present logistical and financial challenges, which is why our team implemented an outreach program, **Your Government Your Neighborhood**. My staff has been traveling to communities throughout the state for two years now, hosting office hours for local residents. Since we began, we have made over 400 trips and plan to increase that throughout 2015.

If we haven't yet been to your town office, community library, or school, or hosted an information table at a local non-profit, please let us know!

My work in Washington this year has been broad reaching, and I am committed to continue this work in a transparent and nonpartisan manner.

My projects have included:

- Overseeing national security and defense issues from ISIS to cybersecurity
- Continuing efforts to simplify student loans and make higher education more affordable
- Easing the regulatory burdens facing Maine businesses, farms, and schools
- Co-sponsoring budget initiatives for a smarter economic direction
- Supporting vital infrastructure and highway investments
- Tackling climate change mitigation and its long-term impacts
- Ensuring financial transparency in politics through campaign finance reform
- Promoting the growth of rural internet access
- Co-sponsoring legislation to help working families get paid leave to care for loved ones

I am tremendously grateful for the opportunity to serve you and will keep you informed of my activities in Maine and Washington.

Sincerely,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
UNITED STATES SENATOR

AUGUSTA
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite F1
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

PRESQUE ISLE
169 Academy Street, Suite A
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

SCARBOROUGH
383 US Route 1, Suite 1C
Scarborough, ME 04074
(207) 883-1588

In Maine call toll-free 1-800-432-1599
Printed on Recycled Paper

**TOWN OF HOPE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING (SCHOOL BUDGET)
May 22, 2014**

ARTICLE: 1

To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Tom Ford was nominated and elected with two votes.

Moved and seconded to allow Nancy Weed, Superintendent to speak.

ARTICLE: 2

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Regular Instruction.

School Committee Recommends	<u>848,256</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	0-6-0

Explanation:

<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$0	\$60,780	\$(60,780)

**moved expenses to Regular Instruction per DOE Instruction.

<u>Regular Instruction K-8</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$841,339	\$771,035	\$70,304

<u>Gifted and Talented</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$6,917	\$2,000	\$4,917

Moved and seconded to authorize \$848,256 and so voted. 28-Yes; 18-No

ARTICLE: 3

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Special Education.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 404,688</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	0-6-0

Explanation:

<u>Special Education Instruction</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$362,276	\$302,711	\$59,565

<u>Special Education Office</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$42,412	\$40,789	\$1,623

Moved and seconded to authorize \$404,688 and so voted. 32-Yes; 12-No

ARTICLE: 4

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Career and Technical Education.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 0</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	6-0-0

Moved and seconded to authorize \$0 and so voted. Motion carried; nearly unanimous with 1 no vote.

ARTICLE: 5

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Other Instruction.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 25,526</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	5-1-0

Explanation:

<u>Co-curricular Activities</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$13,325	\$13,848	\$(523)

<u>Co-curricular Athletics</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$12,201	\$12,967	\$(766)

Moved and seconded to authorize \$25,526 and so voted. Motion carried; nearly unanimous with 1 no vote.

ARTICLE: 6

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Student and Staff Support.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 184,090</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	3-3-0

Explanation:

<u>Elementary Guidance</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$44,493	\$38,880	\$5,613

<u>Instructional Staff Training</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$6,672	\$6,588	\$84

<u>Elementary Library</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$31,302	\$33,629	\$(2,327)

<u>Instructional Technology</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$63,732	\$65,305	\$(1,573)

<u>Other Support Services</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$973	\$1,080	\$(107)

<u>Elementary Nursing Services</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$1,135	\$1,135	\$0

<u>Student Assessment</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$35,783	\$34,466	\$1,317

Moved and seconded to authorize \$184,090 and so voted. 31-Yes; 11-No

ARTICLE: 7

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for System Administration.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 102,954</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	0-6-0

Explanation:

<u>School Committee</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$10,500	\$11,835	\$(1,335)

<u>Office of Superintendent</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$92,454	\$85,124	\$7,330

Moved and seconded to authorize \$102,954 and so voted. 31-Yes; 12-No

ARTICLE: 8

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for School Administration.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 149,709</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	0-6-0

Explanation:

<u>Office of Principal</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$149,709	\$149,127	\$582

Moved and seconded to authorize \$149,709 and so voted. 23-Yes; 18-No

ARTICLE: 9

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Transportation and Buses.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 100,454</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	5-1-0

Explanation:

<u>Transportation</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$100,454	\$98,700	\$1,754

Moved and seconded to authorize \$100,454 and so voted. Motion carried; nearly unanimous with 7 no votes.

ARTICLE: 10

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Facilities Maintenance.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 201,231</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	4-2-0

*Explanation:*Operations & Maintenance

<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$201,231	\$198,264	\$2,967

Moved and seconded to authorize \$201,231 and so voted. Motion carried; nearly unanimous with 2 no votes.

ARTICLE: 11

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 36,768</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	6-0-0

*Explanation:*Debt Service

<u>14/15</u>	<u>13/14</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$36,768	\$37,734	(\$966)

Moved and seconded to authorize \$36,768 and so voted. Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE: 12

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for All Other Expenditures; including School Lunch.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 0</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	6-0-0

Moved and seconded to authorize \$0 and so voted. Motion carried; nearly unanimous with 1 no vote.

ARTICLE: 13

(Recorded vote required; must record numerical vote tally) To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the Town will vote to raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$1,670,358 to be appropriated;</u>
School Committee Recommends	<u>\$1,124,151 to be raised</u>

Budget Committee Recommendation	0-6-0
---------------------------------	-------

*State Mandated Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the **minimum amount** that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

Moved and seconded to amend amount to be appropriated be changed to \$1,680,872 and the amount to be raised changed to \$1,128,330. Motion carried; 26-Yes; 14-No

ARTICLE: 14

(Recorded vote required; must record numerical vote tally) To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Town voters for non-state-funded school construction projects, non-state-funded portions of school construction projects and minor capital projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$36,768</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	6-0-0

State Mandated Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on Town's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects and minor capital renovation projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters.

Moved and seconded to authorize \$36,768 and so voted. Motion carried; 36-Yes; 2-No

ARTICLE: 15

(Recorded vote required; must record numerical vote tally) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend 346,550**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model (**Recommend exceeding by \$ 307,239**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee.

School committee **Recommends \$ 346,550** for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs (EPS) and Services funding model by **\$ 307,239**:

- Increasing enrollment.
- Providing wide range of mandated programs that prepare students for High School including Art, Music, Physical Education, French, Guidance, Special Education, Laboratory Research and Technology.
- Increasing curriculum development and coordination with Appleton, Lincolnville, and the CSD.
- Employing the best teaching and support staff and supporting their continuous growth and development.
- Stressing the emphasis on individualized and focused instruction that have made Hope Elementary School one of the highest achieving schools in the State.

Budget Committee Recommendation	0-6-0
---------------------------------	-------

State Mandated Explanation:

The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the

annual payment on non-state-funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational programs.

Moved and seconded to amend amount School Committee recommends to \$336,036 and amount exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model to \$296,400. Motion carried; 26-Yes, 13-No, and 1-Spoiled

ARTICLE: 16

(Recorded vote required; must record numerical vote tally) To see what sum the Town will authorize the school committee to appropriate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 2,053,676</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	0-6-0

Moved and seconded to authorize \$2,053,676 and so voted. Motion carried; 24-Yes; 16-No

ARTICLE: 17

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the school committee to appropriate such other sums as may be received from federal and state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

School Committee Recommends a	<u>Yes Vote</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	4-2-0

Moved and seconded and so voted. Motion carried; nearly unanimous with 3 no votes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m.

The screenshot shows the Town of Hope website with a green sidebar and a white main content area. The sidebar contains a list of links including 'Town Office', 'Selectmen', 'Committees', 'Town Services', 'Finance', 'How Do I...?', 'Tax Maps, Assessing & Prop. Taxes', 'Ordinances', 'General Assistance', 'Library', 'Historical Society', 'Weather in Hope', 'Town Reports', 'Businesses in Hope', and 'Arts and Recreation'. The 'Finance' link is highlighted. The main content area has a header with 'Home | About Hope | Fire Department | Schools | Calendar | Contact Us' and a section titled 'Town of Hope Finance'. Below this, there are links for 'Town of Hope Audit - Fiscal Year 2014', 'Town of Hope Audit - Fiscal Year 2013', 'Town of Hope Audit - Fiscal Year 2012', and 'Town of Hope Audit - Fiscal Year 2011'. Further down, there are links for 'Budget Summary and Comparison - Fiscal Year 2015', 'Budget Summary and Comparison - Fiscal Year 2014', 'Budget Summary and Comparison - Fiscal Year 2013', 'Budget Summary and Comparison - Fiscal Year 2012', and 'Budget Summary and Comparison - Fiscal Year 2011'. A callout box with a speech bubble points to the 'Finance' link in the sidebar and contains the text: 'You can find information about the Town's budget and finances by going to www.hopemaine.org and clicking here.'

TOWN OF HOPE MINUTES OF 2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

June 10, 2014 - Tuesday

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

June 16, 2014 - Monday

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Margaret Ludwig was nominated and elected as Moderator with two votes. She then appointed Tom Ford as Deputy Moderator. Polls were opened at 8 a.m.

ARTICLE 2. To elect all necessary Town Officers/Officials by secret ballot.

For Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor:

80 votes for James Blanchette

86 votes for David Bosken

55 votes for Ryan Entwistle

82 votes for Brittany Payson

105 votes for Wendy Pelletier

4 various write-ins

David Bosken and Wendy Pelletier were elected Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor for the term of three years.

For the Budget Committee:

159 votes for Joseph Berry

183 votes for Jean Ettlinger

184 votes for William Jones

7 various write-ins

Joseph Berry, Jean Ettlinger, and William Jones were elected to the Budget Committee for the term of three years.

For the School Committee (3 Year Term):

3 votes for Alina Smith (write in candidate)

2 votes for Brooks Crane (write in candidate)

2 votes for Bill Jones (write in candidate)

Alina Smith was elected to the School Committee for a term of three years.

For the School Committee (1 Year Term):

187 votes for Kathryn Ryan

1 write-in

Kathryn Ryan was elected to the School Committee for a term of one year.

For the Road Commissioner:

168 votes for John Monroe

16 various write-ins

John Monroe was elected as the Road Commissioner for a term of three years.

ARTICLE 3. To vote on the School Budgets by secret ballot as set forth on the specimen ballots posted herewith.

Article 3 (Hope School Budget)

Yes: 122

No: 56

Article I (CSD Budget)

Yes: 164

No: 72

ARTICLE 4. To vote by secret ballot on the following Referendum Question:

Shall an ordinance entitled “2014 Amendments to the Town of Hope Land Use Ordinance” be enacted?

The proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at the Town Office and will also be available at the Town Meeting.

Yes: 110 No: 49

ARTICLE 5. To vote by secret ballot on the following Referendum Question:

Shall an ordinance entitled “2014 Amendments to the Town of Hope Zoning Map” be enacted?

The proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at the Town Office and will also be available at the Town Meeting.

Yes: 109 No: 50

For articles 2 through 5, polls shall be opened at 8:00 AM and closed at 8:00 PM. Absentee ballots will be processed at 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM.

Town Meeting started at 7:07 p.m. Deputy Moderator Tom Ford opened the meeting and read the election results. Tom Ford asked for a motion to allow Town Administrator Jon Duke to speak. The motion was made, seconded and so voted.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Hatchet Mountain Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their system or network of trails, on the condition that those trails are open to the public for the purpose of snowmobiling at no charge.

Moved and seconded; passed nearly unanimously with 1 vote against.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$288 from unassigned fund balance to cover the overdraft in the following Town account for Fiscal Year 2012-2013:

Animal Control

\$288

Note: This overdraft resulted from unbudgeted costs related to the seizure and transportation of abandoned animals.

Moved and seconded; passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506, with no interest to accrue on any excess prepaid over the amount finally committed.

Moved and seconded; passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to set September 30, 2014 as the date when the first one-half of taxes shall be due and payable, with interest on the first installment to start after that date, and the date of April 30, 2015 as the date when the second one-half of taxes are due and payable, with interest on the second installment to start after that date; to set the interest rate at 7.00% for unpaid taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 505(4); and to list taxpayers' names in the Town Report if taxes are not paid by June 30, 2015.

Moved and seconded; passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at a rate of 3.00% for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506-A and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from unassigned fund balance.

Moved and seconded; passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 11. To see what sums the Town will vote to appropriate from non-property tax revenues to help fund the total Municipal Budget and reduce the property tax assessment for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 as detailed in Article 12 below:

	<u>Selectmen</u>	<u>Budget Committee</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Amount</u>
a) Excise Taxes – Vehicles	5-0-0	6-0-0	\$250,000
b) Cemetery Maintenance	5-0-0	5-0-1	1,000
c) Highway Block Grant	5-0-0	6-0-0	35,000
d) State Revenue Sharing	5-0-0	5-1-0	0
e) GA Reimbursement	5-0-0	6-0-0	1,000
f) Grant Income	5-0-0	6-0-0	750
g) Unassigned Fund Balance	5-0-0	5-1-0	75,000
h) Overlay (see Article 10)	5-0-0	6-0-0	(25,000)
i) Miscellaneous Revenue	5-0-0	6-0-0	50,000
		TOTAL	\$387,750

Moved and seconded; passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 12. To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 for the following purposes:

	<u>Selectmen</u>	<u>Budget Committee</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Amount</u>
a) Town Administration – Salaries	5-0-0	6-0-0	\$146,278
b) General Administration	5-0-0	0-6-0	42,400
c) Animal Control	5-0-0	1-5-0	9,947
d) Public Safety	3-2-0	3-3-0	101,915
e) Ambulance Services	5-0-0	6-0-0	6,458
f) Municipal Building	5-0-0	6-0-0	11,763
g) Recreation	5-0-0	5-1-0	5,644
h) Street Lights	5-0-0	6-0-0	1,420
i) Roads	4-1-0	6-0-0	332,844
j) Sanitation	5-0-0	6-0-0	49,907
k) Professional Services	4-1-0	6-0-0	26,480
l) General Assistance	5-0-0	6-0-0	2,000
m) Cemeteries	5-0-0	4-1-1	7,663
n) Capital Reserve	4-1-0	6-0-0	21,646
TOTAL MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES			\$766,365
TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUE (SEE ARTICLE 11)			<u>-387,750</u>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED AND APPROPRIATED			\$378,615

Article 12 moved and seconded in the amount of \$378,615.

Motion to amend total amount to be raised and appropriated to \$376,115 by changing line “b” to \$40,900 and changing line “d” to \$100,915.

Article 12 passed nearly unanimously (with 4 votes against), as amended, in the amount of \$376,115.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to fix the salaries of the officials and employees appointed by it under provision of 30-A M.R.S.A. §2601(1) and (2), subject to funding under Article 12 above.

Moved and seconded; passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into multi-year contracts on behalf of the Town.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, at its discretion, to sell by sealed bid or public auction (with the Board of Selectmen reserving the right to reject any and all bids) and to convey by quitclaim deed any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, or to convey the property to the prior owner upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of Town-owned personal property with a value of \$1,000 or less on such terms and conditions as it deems advisable.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 944 upon a finding by the Board of Selectmen that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject gifts of money to the various accounts of the Town for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept conditional or unconditional gifts of real property provided that no single gift will obligate the Town to incur liabilities that total \$1,000 or more per year, as determined by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Board to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject gifts of money to the various accounts of the school for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for state, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on the Town's behalf for purposes deemed by the Board of Selectmen to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contracts and related documents and to accept conditions of approval; and to appropriate such grant funds for any purpose for which the Town has appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the proceeds of any payment on insurance claims for damage occurring to Town property, with such appropriation dedicated to the budget line item for the same type of property as the loss sustained.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to carry unexpended funds forward to the next fiscal year within the existing budget line items.

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote by written ballot to increase the property tax levy limit of \$472,849 established for Hope by state law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding Articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Motion and second to consider and approve Articles 14 through 24 with one vote. Passed nearly unanimously.

Motion and second to amend Article 18 to:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject gifts of money to the various accounts of the Town for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes, so long as such donations and gifts do not cause future encumbrances on the municipal budget.

Amendment to Article 18 passed unanimously.

Motion and second to approve Articles 14 through 24; passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

**TOWN OF HOPE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
May 13, 2015**

TO: Mary Tolles, resident of the Town of Hope, in the County of Knox

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hope, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to appear in the **gym of the Hope Elementary School, 34 Highfield Road, in Hope, Maine** on **Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 6:30 PM**, then and there to act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE: 1

To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE: 2

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Regular Instruction.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$982,164</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	6-2-0

Explanation:

<u>Regular Instruction K-8</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$975,231	\$841,339	\$133,892

<u>Gifted and Talented</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$6,933	\$6,917	\$16

ARTICLE: 3

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Special Education.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 383,600</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	7-1-0

Explanation:

<u>Special Education Instruction</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$339,702	\$362,276	\$(22,574)

<u>Special Education Office</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$43,898	\$42,412	\$1,486

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Town of Hope

ARTICLE: 4

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Career and Technical Education.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 0</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	8-0-0

ARTICLE: 5

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Other Instruction.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 28,008</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	6-2-0

Explanation:

<u>Co-curricular Activities</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$14,812	\$13,325	\$1,487

<u>Co-curricular Athletics</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$13,196	\$12,201	\$995

ARTICLE: 6

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Student and Staff Support.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 153,041</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	7-1-0

Explanation:

<u>Elementary Guidance</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$32,550	\$44,493	\$(11,943)

<u>Instructional Staff Training</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$10,898	\$6,672	\$4,226

<u>Elementary Library</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$31,874	\$31,302	\$572

<u>Instructional Technology</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$66,583	\$63,732	\$2,851

<u>Other Support Services</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$1,083	\$973	\$110

<u>Elementary Nursing Services</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$5,248	\$1,135	\$4,113

<u>Student Assessment</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$4,805	\$35,783	\$(30,978)

ARTICLE: 7

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for System Administration.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 104,905</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	1-7-0

Explanation:

<u>School Committee</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$9,975	\$10,500	\$(525)

<u>Office of Superintendent</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$94,930	\$92,454	\$2,476

ARTICLE: 8

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for School Administration.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 151,195</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	6-2-0

Explanation:

<u>Office of Principal</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$151,195	\$149,709	\$1,486

ARTICLE: 9

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Transportation and Buses.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 104,002</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	7-1-0

Explanation:

<u>Transportation</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$104,002	\$100,454	\$3,548

ARTICLE: 10

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Facilities Maintenance.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 188,848</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	7-1-0

Explanation:

<u>Operations & Maintenance</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$188,848	\$201,231	\$(12,383)

ARTICLE: 11

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for Debt Service and Other Commitments.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 37,223</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	8-0-0

Explanation:

<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>15/16</u>	<u>14/15</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	\$37,223	\$36,768	\$455

ARTICLE: 12

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for All Other Expenditures; including School Lunch.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 0</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	8-0-0

ARTICLE: 13

(Recorded vote required; must record numerical vote tally) To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the Town will vote to raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$1,740,756 to be appropriated;</u>
School Committee Recommends	<u>\$1,147,636 to be raised</u>

Budget Committee Recommendation	7-1-0
---------------------------------	-------

*State Mandated Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the **minimum amount** that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

ARTICLE: 14

(Recorded vote required; must record numerical vote tally) To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the Town voters for non-state-funded school construction projects, non-state-funded portions of school construction projects and minor capital projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$37,223</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	8-0-0

State Mandated Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on Town's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects and minor capital renovation projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the voters.

ARTICLE: 15

(Recorded vote required; must record numerical vote tally) To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend 343,007**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model (**Recommend exceeding by \$ 302,312**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the school committee.

School committee **Recommends \$ 343,007** for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Program and Services (EPS) funding model by **\$ 302,312:**

- Providing wide range of mandated programs that prepare students for High School including Art, Music, Physical Education, French, Guidance, Special Education, Laboratory Research and Technology
- Increasing curriculum development and coordination with Appleton, Lincolnville, and the CSD
- Employing the best teaching and support staff and supporting their continuous growth and development
- Stressing the emphasis on individualized and focused instruction

Budget Committee Recommendation	7-1-0
---------------------------------	-------

State Mandated Explanation:

The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state-funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational programs.

ARTICLE: 16

(Recorded vote required; must record numerical vote tally) To see what sum the Town will authorize the school committee to appropriate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from Kindergarten to Grade Eight as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Town of Hope

under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Committee Recommends	<u>\$ 2,132,986</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	0-8-0

ARTICLE: 17

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the school committee to appropriate such other sums as may be received from federal and state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

School Committee Recommends a	<u>Yes Vote</u>
Budget Committee Recommendation	5-3-0

Given under our hands at said Hope, Maine, this 28th day of April 2015.

HOPE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Brian Powers, Jr., Chair
Wendy Pelletier, Vice Chair
David Bosken
James Annis
Christopher Pinchbeck

Agendas and minutes of Board of Selectmen meetings are posted here at www.hopemaine.org.

Meetings of the Board of Selectmen

Note: These documents are in PDF format and require Acrobat Reader to view. Lucky for all of us, Acrobat Reader is free. If you do not have a copy on your computer, click the Acrobat icon to learn how to download it. Download time for these agendas and minutes will vary depending on your internet connection and browser speed.

Agendas	Minutes
5/26/2015	5/26/2015
5/12/2015	5/12/2015
4/28/2015	4/28/2015
4/14/2015	4/14/2015
4/7/2015	4/7/2015
3/24/2015	3/24/2015
3/10/2015	3/10/2015
3/3/2015 rescheduled from 2/24/2015	3/3/2015
2/10/2015	2/10/2015

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 7:30am - 4:30pm
Wednesday 7:30am - 4:30pm
Thursday 2:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday 7:30am - 4:30pm

**TOWN OF HOPE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

June 9, 2015 - Tuesday
8:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Hope Town Office

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

June 15, 2015 - Monday
7:00 PM
Hope Elementary School

TO: Mary Tolles, resident of the Town of Hope, in the County of Knox

GREETINGS: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Hope, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the HOPE TOWN OFFICE, in said Town on TUESDAY, the NINTH day of JUNE, 2015 at 8:00 AM then and there to act on Articles numbered 1 through 3;

And to notify and warn the voters to meet at the HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, in said Town on MONDAY, the FIFTEENTH day of JUNE, 2015 at 7:00 PM, then and there to act on Articles numbered 4 through 23, all of said Articles being set out below, to wit:

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To elect all necessary Town Officers/Officials by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 3. To vote on the School Budgets by secret ballot as set forth on the specimen ballots posted herewith.

For articles 2 through 3 polls shall be opened at 8:00 AM and closed at 8:00 PM. Absentee ballots will be processed at 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Hatchet Mountain Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their system or network of trails, on the condition that those trails are open to the public for the purpose of snowmobiling at no charge.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506, with no interest to accrue on any excess prepaid over the amount finally committed.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to set September 30, 2015 as the date when the first one-half of taxes shall be due and payable, with interest on the first installment to start after that date, and the date of May 3, 2016 as the date when the second one-half of taxes are due and payable, with interest on the second installment to start after that date; to set the interest rate at 7.00% for unpaid taxes pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 505(4); and to list taxpayers' names in the Town Report if taxes are not paid by June 30, 2016.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on abated taxes at a rate of 3.00% for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506-A and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from unassigned fund balance.

ARTICLE 8. To see what sums the Town will vote to appropriate from non-property tax revenues to help fund the total Municipal Budget and reduce the property tax assessment for Fiscal Year 2015–2016 as detailed in Article 9 below:

	<u>Selectmen</u>	<u>Budget Committee</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Amount</u>
a) Excise Taxes – Vehicles	4-0-0	8-0-0	\$260,000
b) Cemetery Maintenance	4-0-0	6-0-2	1,000
c) Highway Block Grant	4-0-0	8-0-0	30,000
d) State Revenue Sharing	4-0-0	8-0-0	0
e) GA Reimbursement	4-0-0	8-0-0	1,000
f) Grant Income	4-0-0	8-0-0	750
g) Unassigned Fund Balance	4-0-0	6-2-0	52,400
h) Overlay (see Article 7)	4-0-0	8-0-0	(15,000)
i) Miscellaneous Revenue	4-0-0	8-0-0	50,000
	TOTAL		\$380,150

ARTICLE 9. To see what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 for the following purposes:

	<u>Selectmen</u>	<u>Budget Committee</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Amount</u>
a) Town Administration	2-2-0	4-4-0	\$148,212
b) General Administration	4-0-0	8-0-0	41,859
c) Animal Control	4-0-0	8-0-0	7,250
d) Public Safety	2-2-0	3-5-0	97,650
e) Ambulance Services	4-0-0	8-0-0	9,286
f) Municipal Building	4-0-0	7-1-0	11,158
g) Recreation	4-0-0	8-0-0	5,512
h) Street Lights	4-0-0	8-0-0	1,575
i) Roads	3-1-0	5-3-0	309,233
j) Sanitation	4-0-0	8-0-0	50,102
k) Professional Services	4-0-0	5-3-0	25,950
l) General Assistance	4-0-0	8-0-0	2,000
m) Cemeteries	2-2-0	2-3-3	7,527
n) Capital Reserve	4-0-0	4-4-0	38,500
TOTAL MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES			\$755,814
TOTAL MUNICIPAL REVENUE (SEE ARTICLE 8)			<u>-380,150</u>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED AND APPROPRIATED			\$375,664

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to fix the salaries of the officials and employees appointed by it under provision of 30-A M.R.S.A. §2601(1) and (2), subject to funding under Article 9 above.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the support of Midcoast Maine Community Action (MMCA). MMCA provides the community with nutrition and breastfeeding counseling and vouchers for nutritious foods through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

Selectmen Recommend 0-4-0

Budget Committee Recommend 0-7-1

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into multi-year contracts on behalf of the Town.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, at its discretion, to sell by sealed bid or public auction (with the Board of Selectmen reserving the right to reject any and all bids) and to convey by quitclaim deed any real estate acquired by the Town for nonpayment of taxes thereon, or to convey the property to the prior owner upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell or otherwise dispose of Town-owned personal property with a value of \$1,000 or less on such terms and conditions as it deems advisable.

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 944 upon a finding by the Board of Selectmen that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject donations and/or gifts of money to the various accounts of the Town for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes provided that any donation and/or gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$1,000 or more per year, as determined by the Board of Selectmen, shall be decided at a special town meeting.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept conditional or unconditional gifts of real property provided that any gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$1,000 or more per year, as determined by the Board of Selectmen, shall be decided at a special town meeting.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Board to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject donations and/or gifts of money to the various accounts of the school for the ensuing year and to appropriate those moneys donated for specific purposes provided that any donation and/or gift which obligates the Town to incur liabilities that total \$1,000 or more per year, as determined by the Board of Selectmen, shall be decided at a special town meeting.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for state, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on the Town's behalf for purposes deemed by the Board of Selectmen to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contracts and related documents and to accept conditions of approval; and to appropriate such grant funds for any purpose for which the Town has appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the proceeds of any payment on insurance claims for damage occurring to Town property, with such appropriation dedicated to the budget line item for the same type of property as the loss sustained.

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to carry unexpended funds forward to the next fiscal year within the existing budget line items.

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote by written ballot to increase the property tax levy limit of \$497,528 established for Hope by state law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding Articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept delivery of a release deed for the acquisition of certain real property known as the former Union Chemical Company site comprised of approximately 12.5 acres on Route 17 (Tax Map 8, Lots 18 and 19) from the State of Maine, subject to a declaration of environmental covenants and such other terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen determines to be in the Town's best interests.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS THIS FOURTEENTH DAY OF APRIL, 2015.

Brian Powers, Jr., Chair
Wendy Pelletier, Vice Chair
David Bosken
James Annis
Christopher Pinchbeck



From left: David Bosken, Chris Pinchbeck, Brian Powers, Jr. (Chair), Wendy Pelletier (Vice Chair), Jim Annis

HOPE PROFILE

Population per 2010 census	1,536
Area in acres	15,232
Area in square miles	23.8
Miles of Town roads	18.75
Miles of State Aid roads	14.47
Miles of State Highway	1.94
Registered voters as of June 30, 2014	1,152
Property valuation base as of April 1, 2014	\$198,349,700
Number of land parcels as of April 1, 2014	1,207
Number of Homestead Exemptions as of April 1, 2014	451
Number of acres classified under Tree Growth Tax Law	1,906
Number of acres classified under Farmland Tax Law	4,138
Number of acres classified under Open Space Tax Law	137
2014-2015 tax rate per \$1000 of valuation (mil rate)	\$13.50
Certified assessment ratio	100%



Miller Hobbs' Misty Mountain Farm (now 379 Hatchet Mountain Road)
Photo taken by Frank Cunningham of South Liberty in 1876; courtesy of Hope Historical Society

TELEPHONE NUMBERS**EMERGENCY CALLS**

Fire – 911

Ambulance – 911

Police – 911

Animal Control Officer	322-3237
Assessors' Agent	763-4199
Camden Hills Regional High School	236-7800
Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector	763-3528
Fire Station, Hope Corner.....	763-3411
Fire Station, South Hope	785-3384
Five Town Community School District (CSD).....	230-0025
Game Warden	800-452-4664
Hope Elementary School	785-4081
Knox County Sheriff (non-emergency).....	594-5656
Mid-Coast Solid Waste Corp.....	236-7958
Road Commissioner.....	542-9636 or 785-4685
Superintendent's Office (SU 69)	763-3818
Town Administrator.....	763-3528
Town Fax	763-4195
Town Office.....	763-4199

TOWN OF HOPE

441 Camden Road

Hope, Maine 04847

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 7:30 – 4:30

Thursday: 2:00 – 8:00

Closed Monday

Phone: 763-4199

Fax: 763-4195

Visit our website:

www.hopemaine.org



TOWN OF HOPE
441 Camden Road
Hope, ME, 04847

Third Class Mail



Pre-Sorted

Please bring this report with you to Town Meeting on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 7:00PM at Hope Elementary School. The warrant articles beginning on page 71 will be voted on then and there.